



20mph zones among measures to boost safety

SPEED LIMIT TO PROTECT PUPILS

Report by Dayna Farrington

NEW 20mph speed limits are set to be rolled out across Dudley borough under plans to improve safety outside of schools.

The new zones will be introduced at 11 schools in Halesowen, Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Sedgley, if the plans are backed by council bosses.

It could also see other traffic management schemes introduced, including new zebra crossings and widened pavements.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services, Councillor Karen Shakespeare, said the speed limits were part of a programme to improve safety.

The 20mph would only operate during school drop-off and pick-up times.

They are set to be introduced outside Halesbury School, Hurst Green Primary, Ham Dingle Primary, Fairhaven Primary, Peters Hill Primary, Cotwall End Primary, Colley Lane Primary, Earls High, Tenterfields Primary, Bishop Milner Catholic High, St Joseph's RC Primary and Leasowes Community College.

Programme

Councillor Shakespeare said: "As part of our programme to improve safety on our streets, the 20mph zones are among a number of measures being introduced outside school gates."

"All schools across the borough have been assessed and work prioritised. Residents will be consulted on our proposals and the council will work to introduce the schemes as quickly as possible."

The proposed programmes include specific provisions to benefit pedestrians and the mobility of the less able, as well as measures to improve access for young people to schools.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN WHO STARTED CHAIN REACTION



Rousing the 'women slaves of the forge', Mary MacArthur's address to the strikers is recreated as part of the Women Chainmakers' Festival

ACTORS took visitors back in time to a historic struggle fought by women in the Black Country for a minimum wage.

The scene in Cradley Heath High Street was turned back to 1910 when actors dressed in Edwardian clothes and carrying protest signs at the Women Chainmakers' Festival on Saturday recreated one of the meetings when the women were addressed by firebrand Scot-

tish Suffragist campaigner and trade unionist Mary MacArthur.

The family friendly festival organised by the Midlands TUC celebrated the role of the women in struggling for a decent wage, marking a key moment in women's and Labour history.

The group stood up for their right to earn a living wage led by the founder of the Na-

tional Federation of Women Workers, Mary MacArthur. Their 10-week strike successfully established the right to a minimum wage.

Families enjoyed market stalls, fun fair rides, speeches, street theatre, music and debate at the festival.

There was also a trade union banner parade. The event was held as part of the Black Country Festival.

POLICE

Bus cleared due to fear of explosion

PASSENGERS travelling on a bus in Dudley were forced to get off after concerns there could be an explosive on board.

Police received a 999 call on Saturday morning from a staff member at Dudley bus station in Fisher Street. A driver had raised concerns about a man who boarded a bus that morning in Lye Cross.

The bus was evacuated and checked by a police sniffer dog but nothing suspicious was detected.

It is understood that the man in question had got off the bus before police were contacted.

EVENTS

Wiggle over for fun in town centre

CELEBRATIONS for Black Country Day take place in Dudley town centre on Saturday with the revival of the traditional coffin race, which refers to an historic incident at Dudley Castle, and an appearance by Britain's Got Talent 'Wiggle Wine' singer Donchez Dacres.

On the same day is the first Shell Corner Food and Drink Festival and the OH Festival and Parade in Old Hill.

● Black Country Festival – page 2

ANNIVERSARY

Ensign flies to mark the RAF centenary

THE Royal Air Force Ensign is flying from Dudley Castle and the Council House and will do so for one hundred days to mark this week's 100th birthday of the RAF.

On September 16 Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor will be giving the RAF the Freedom of the Borough. The Royal Air Force Association with Dudley Council will hold a Battle of Britain service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church (Top Church) followed by a parade through the town centre and the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph in Ednam Road.

INSIDE

IN THE PINK AT RACE FOR LIFE



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'Greedy' cleaner fails over jail appeal



Veronica Susan Robinson

A CROOKED cleaner who took advantage of a 93-year-old war veteran, plundering 'hundreds of thousands of pounds' from his bank account, has been told her jail term is not a day too long.

'Insatiably greedy' Veronica Susan Robinson, 62, began cleaning the house of a blind Second World War veteran in 2013, tLondon's Appeal Court heard. She 'excluded' his family and neighbours, who had previously helped care for him at his home in Halesowen. Then, after 'grooming' her wealthy victim, she manipulated him into paying

for a £190,000 house for her and went on to further raid his bank account.

She then falsified a document put before a court, in a bid to cover her tracks after her fraud was discovered.

Robinson, whose address was given as High Haden Road, Cradley Heath, was convicted of fraud and perverting the course of justice and she was locked up for five-and-a-half years at Wolverhampton Crown Court in March last year.

This week at London's Appeal Court, she asked Mr Justice Green to cut her jail term, claiming she was treated too

harshly. But the judge refused her application, saying she had abused a vulnerable man.

Justice Green said: "She isolated him from neighbours and relatives and began drawing out money, much of which was transferred into her pocket. She took advantage of her good fortune in meeting a wealthy but vulnerable man. She had no intention of protecting him. The intention was to abuse her self-appointed carer's position to swindle him out of his life savings. She was an unprincipled opportunist, motivated by insatiable greed."

Council in balance after Tory defects to Labour

THE leadership of Dudley Council hangs in the balance after a Conservative councillor defected to the opposition.

Norton Councillor Mike Attwood made the decision to switch to the Labour group at a meeting last Thursday and his change in allegiance has led to a power battle at the local authority.

The move means the Labour group holds the majority with 36 councillors compared to the Tories' 35 councillors and one independent.

Conservative council leader Patrick Harley called Councillor Attwood's decision 'disgraceful' and said a by-election should be held. Labour leader Pete Lowe said his party would be submitting a motion of no confidence at October's full council meeting. For now, the council will go on its summer recess.



Cllr Attwood

Councillor Attwood said: "Conservative-run Dudley Council is doing nothing to stand up for the people I represent."

"I have been left bitterly disappointed in equal measure by the untenable plan and poor decisions Councillor Harley and his team have made in Dudley."

Reject

"I felt my colleagues were not supporting my work and my role, so I made the difficult decision to switch. I will carry on working with my constituents and I see no reason why I should not continue to do that. I reject his statement for a by-election."

Councillor Harley said: "What he has done is disgraceful. If he had any decency he would call a by-election and stand for election under his new party."

"We are still confident of making more gains. Labour have been in decline in the area. I think it will all end in tears."

Sculpture honours campaign groups



The dragon-inspired new sculpture is unveiled outside Haden Hill House and Haden Old Hall

A SCULPTURE to honour people who fought to preserve Haden Hill House and Haden Old Hall has been officially unveiled.

Deputy mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Carol Gault, joined the Friends of Haden Hill House to reveal the wedding bower sculpture, created by local artist Luke Perry, outside the house in Cradley Heath.

BUGS Ukulele Strummers performed immediately after the ceremony, attended by members of the

public. Friends group chairman Ken Smith said: "We wanted to do something to commemorate what was done by the late Meryl Cockin, The Preservation Society, The Protection Society and others in the 1970s to save these two wonderful buildings."

The houses were derelict and faced being demolished in the early 1970s, but were saved following a campaign. Haden Hill House was extensively restored in the 1980s, by this time under Sandwell Coun-

cil's ownership, and it opened as a museum. It is also now licensed for wedding ceremonies.

Haden Old Hall also received a major facelift and is now often open up to the public at events supported by the Friends of Haden Hill.

Councillor Ann Shackleton, a member of the Friends, said: "This is about ensuring we acknowledge the contribution that past members of the Friends group and others made to developing the park and preserving the two houses."

Sunshine and footy keep carnival spirit going

THOUSANDS turned out to bask in summer sunshine at carnivals in Stourbridge and Halesowen.

Fun fairs, parades, dancing and live music, wrestling, wild bird displays and a street market were just some of the attractions on offer, though thousands made sure they were near a TV screen for Saturday's England match.

Halesowen Carnival took place at Highfields Park on Saturday, with Stourbridge Carnival in the High Street and town centre on Sunday. Both were part of the month-long Black Country Festival, with more events during July.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor said: "Both carnivals were absolutely fantastic events. It was lovely to see so many families out enjoying the sunshine. The organisers did a brilliant job in both Stourbridge and Halesowen. I'm really looking forward to seeing the festivities continue throughout the month, and am particularly looking forward to the celebrations in Dudley town centre on Black Country Day itself on Saturday."

The Black Country Festival, now in its fifth year, promises to be the biggest and best yet. From 10am to 5pm, the family fun day in Dudley will focus on Stone Street Square.

Inca is bear-ing up very well at 38

DUDLEY Zoo's black bear Inca – thought to be the oldest in the world – is doing un-bear-ably well after sailing through her annual health check.

As the oldest Asiatic black bear on zoo records worldwide, at the age of 38, astounding Inca underwent her yearly medical with zoo vets Peter Stewart and Cristian Segura Cortijos a couple of weeks ago and her results have come back clear.

Curator Richard Brown, who assisted the vets, said: "Inca is doing incredibly well for an old girl and has exceeded the life span of a wild Asiatic black bear by well over a decade."

Inca goes into semi-hibernation, in her den between around November and March but has been known to make an appearance on a mild winter's day.

Controversial comic has town hall date

CONTROVERSIAL comedian Jim Davidson is to perform in Dudley this winter.

His On The Road Again tour comes to Dudley Town Hall on November 10. Tickets costing £23 are on sale now from the box office on (01384) 812812.

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Fresh doubt over store at Merry Hill centre

FRESH doubt has been cast over the future of a Mothercare store at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

It is part of a Mothercare subsidiary called Children's World, made up of 22 stores which the company has now put into administration as part of its radical bail-out plan.

It aims to close nine of the shops but refuses to say which are affected.

The move now means a total of 60 Mothercare outlets will be shut by June next year, putting 900 jobs at risk. That already includes stores in Stafford and Walsall, where around 30 people work.

The retailer said 13 of the Children's World 22 stores, which all together employ 336 people, would be saved. It is thought the nine closures will add around 100 to the jobs toll.

Mothercare bought Children's World from Boots in January 1996 and re-branded all of its superstores as Mothercare World, including the outlet at the Merry Hill retail park, off Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill.

The changes come after Mothercare cleared a restructuring plan known as a Company Voluntary Agreement, an insolvency procedure that required the approval of the retailer's landlords.

The group has also managed to raise £32.5 million from its existing shareholders.

Quad bike rider rescued after fall

A QUAD biker rider aged in his 60s suffered serious injuries after falling 20ft down a steep embankment in Rowley Regis.

The man was found on land off Moor Lane, near Rowley Regis Hospital, on Thursday afternoon. Specialist paramedics and the Midlands Air Ambulance was called to the scene at around 4.50pm.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman Claire Brown said: the man had sustained potentially serious injuries and due to his precarious position on the steep slope had to be placed on a specialist stretcher.

He was lifted up the slope using ropes with the support of firefighters and taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital for treatment.

St John base shuts

THE St John Ambulance centre in Brierley Hill has closed after 125 years with members holding a farewell event at the Bent Street base. The centre was closed following a property review by the organisation.

200 jobs face axe at shop fitting firm

MORE than 200 jobs at one of the Black Country's biggest firms are to be axed as the business suffers from the impact of online shopping on traditional retail.

Shop fittings specialists The Alan Nuttall Partnership view the move – the second round of redundancies it has made in four months – as necessary to secure the firm's future.

Chairman Alan Nuttall said he was 'devastated' at taking the action, which was aimed at refocusing on the profitable parts of the business.

The redundancies will be spread across the company's two sites – at Hall Street, Dudley, and Hinckley in Leicestershire. The company employs more than 500 people.

Employees were told in personal emails to staff on Friday.

One Dudley worker who asked not to be named said: "Some people have spent all their lives at the company after starting there as apprentices. It's heartbreaking."

"Nuttalls was such a big employer. I don't think people understand the implications of this."

Clients

The company produces interiors and display units, from design through to manufacture and installation, for clients such as M&S, Morrisons, Asda, Homebase, Costa, Nike, Sainsbury's and Dunkin Donuts.

In his letter, the chairman said the business as a whole had made 'considerable losses' over the past two years which it could not continue to sustain.

It comes after axing 84 jobs earlier this year.

Managing director Nino Calandra said: "We have invested time and resource to try and move into new sectors to reduce our dependence on the retail sector but sadly this doesn't happen overnight, although we hope we will see the benefits of these actions in the near future."

He described the growth of online shopping as seemingly 'virtually unstoppable'.

Mr Calandra added: "Sadly we have no option. We need to do this to live to fight another day."

Park turned pink as runners raise £123k

IT was a sea of pink as more than 1,700 people gathered at Himley Park to race in aid of charity, raising more than £123,000 for Cancer Research UK in the Race For Life event on Sunday.

Many of those tackling the course were out to remember lost loved ones – including Diane Greaves, 54, from Stafford, who was taking part in memory of her late mother Cilla Ingham who died in 2003, aged 67, from cancer.

Diane said: "Fifteen years ago today my mom passed away, she had pancreatic cancer. My sister and my brother are here, my daughters are here and my nieces, my sister-in-law, we just want to give something back, we want to fight and we want to kick cancer's butt."

"We do this today, Pretty Muddy next week and we volunteer. We have called this Granny's Gang and everyone has done an individual bit to raise some money."

Cure

"Fifteen years ago there wasn't the same drugs around as there are today, more people are actually living and fighting cancer today and lets hope in another fifteen years they can even more. That is what it is about. The more people give, the quicker we will find a cure."

There was an overspill of joy from England's triumph over Sweden on Saturday too as Heart FM's Ed James roused the crowd during their warm up with classic Three Lions song, which features the Black Country's Frank Skinner.

Event manager Kirsten Greaves labelled the Dudley fundraisers 'incredible' and said: "It is absolutely amazing. The people of Dudley are just incredible, they do so much fundraising, they go that extra mile and its vital for research."

"There is something really special about Race For Life. When you see everyone's signs and the messages to their loved ones – not one person here hasn't been touched by cancer. They have lost loved ones, family, friends, colleagues and it is the most special, overwhelming feeling and you cannot help but be touched. Last year in the Midlands we spent £11 million on research and we simply could not do that without the support."



The pink army warm up for the 5k Race For Life fundraiser in the grounds of Himley Hall, near Dudley



A team from the intu Merry Hill shopping centre



Lucy Baker, aged eight, from Netherton, took part

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mothers must be infection aware



HALESOWEN'S MP is pushing for greater awareness of potential baby killer Group B Strep as it emerged that one in five pregnant women have never heard of the infection.

Group B Strep can be carried by adults with no symptoms or side-effects but is the most common cause of life-threatening infection in newborn babies. These infections happen around labour and can cause conditions such as sepsis, pneumonia and meningitis.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said: "Group B Strep causes a potentially fatal infection in newborn babies, but shockingly around one in every five pregnant women haven't even heard of it."

"I'm supporting Group B Strep Support's work to make sure every pregnant woman in Halesowen and Rowley Regis is told about Group B Strep."

Industrial estate sells for £2.6m

A MULTI-LET industrial estate in Dudley has been sold for more than £2.6 million.

Joint agents Harris Lamb and McLaren Partners, acting on behalf of the Skelton Group, have sold Castle Mill Industrial Estate on Birmingham New Road to Canmoor. The gated site, which extends to 172,858 sq ft, has 19 industrial and warehouse units ranging from 1,500 sq ft to 28,000 sq ft.

Alex Eagleton, who oversaw the sale, said the appetite for Midlands industrial investment opportunities remains high.

Homes plan for old Legion site

NEW homes are being proposed for the former site of the Royal British Legion in Halesowen.

A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council to build 11 homes on the site in Bundle Hill.

The scheme would include six four-bedroom homes, one five-bed and four three-bed properties with parking and amenity space.

The site had been the home of the Royal British Legion in Halesowen from 1968 until 2008 when the building had to be demolished following a fire.



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4 Disability support being launched across borough

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 12, 2018

A SERVICE which offers support to people of all ages with physical or learning disabilities launches this month in Dudley borough.

The Dudley disability service supports children, young people and adults with disabilities or special educational needs living in Dudley borough. It supports them in aiming to achieve happy lives, helping them to become independent through gaining skills, knowledge and confidence.

The service was being officially launched at Dudley College yesterday (Wednesday).

Dudley disability service offers a range of care and support services, as well as signposting to enable people with disabilities or special educational needs, to live as independent and fulfilling lives as possible.

More importantly, the service works in partnership with each person to ensure that it meets the needs, desires and aspirations of them at an individual level, catering for their needs in the way they want.

People using the service can access support including day services, family centres, technology enabled support, assisted living, residential care and respite care, employment support, health visiting and school nurse support. Practical matters such as housing support can also be provided and carers are not forgotten either, with access to the carers health and well-being service also provided.

To find out more visit www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/care-health/dudley-disability-service/ or call 0300 555 2345.

Industrial service

ON Sunday historian Margaret Bradley is leading a church service which will celebrate the Black Country's industrial heritage. Taking part at Overend Methodist Church will be descendants of people involved in local trades. The service is at the church in Banners Lane, Cradley, at 6pm.

Falling bed-block figures are the best in five years

Teddies take leap of faith for church funds



Simon Franks releases one of the bears from St Peter's Church Tower in a test run for Saturday's parachute jump

INTREPID teddy bears will be parachuting from a church tower in Cradley on Saturday in aid of a heritage clock project.

The jumps are taking place at St Peter's Church as part the parish's annual summer fayre and family fun day, from 10am to 2pm.

There will be lots of stalls, refreshments, homemade cakes, BBQ, bouncy castle, plus information about learning to ring the bells and the heritage clock

project. For the first time this year the church also has a teddy bear parachute jump from the tower, taking place in two hour-long sessions at 10.30am and 12.30.

It will cost each brave bear £1 and there is a weight limit of 500 grammes. Owners must sign in their teddies at jump registration on arrival. Bears will undergo a health and safety check, only bears that pass will be given permission to jump. See www.stpeter

[scradley.org](http://www.stpeter) for details. Bears with their own parachutes must have them firmly attached prior to registration. Jump masters will attach parachutes to bears who did not bring their own.

It will cost more than £8,000 to install the clock dial salvaged from St Luke's Church in Cradley Heath. There are plans for chimes (which can be silenced at night) and floodlighting for the clock, which was at St Luke's from 1946 to 2016.

BED-BLOCKING has been drastically cut to its lowest level in five years in part of the Black Country, new figures show.

Last year Dudley Council was awarded £13.9 million from the Government's Improved Better Care Fund to spend over three years to tackle some of the most pressing issues in health and adult social care.

The number of people who are medically fit to leave hospital but are delayed while being discharged as they need social care support are at the lowest in five years

Dudley Council committed to spending £7m introducing measures to support older people to leave hospital, or a 'step-down' setting – typically a bed in a care home – as soon as they are medically fit.

It has already had the desired impact with a noticeable reduction in the number of cases of delayed transfer of care, known as bed blocking, with beds being freed up quicker for those who need them most.

Impact

Figures show that there was only one case of delayed transfer compared to more than 400 in August last year – and only 12 from 'step-down' settings compared to more than 100 in August last year.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Thanks to this investment we have introduced a raft of measures that are having a big impact on our health and social care services.

"We are now in a better position to move people through the system and discharge them from hospital or a step-down setting when they are at their strongest and their independence is at its peak.

"Not only is this giving the patient a much better experience but it's also freeing up much-needed beds in our hospital and step-down settings."

New luxury cars helping JLR figures

JAGUAR Land Rover managed a rise in global sales last month, thanks to new cars like the Jaguar E-Pace and Range Rover Velar.

Most of the company's other cars saw sales slide in June.

The West Midlands-based luxury car maker, which makes its engines at the i54 site in Wolverhampton, also saw a drop of 9.5 per cent in sales in its crucial Chinese market.

Worldwide, sales of Land Rovers dipped 1.5 per cent, while Jaguar lifted 6.4 per cent.

The combined figures saw JLR group sales rise just 0.9 per cent to 52,049 cars in June. Sales in the first six months are up just 0.4 per cent at 318,219.

For Jaguar only sales of 4,525 of the new E-Pace baby SUVs and 136 of the all-electric I-Paces countered a sales slide across all other models, including a 30 per cent drop in the F-Pace.

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Transgender children to help train school and health staff

TRANSGENDER children will talk to teachers and healthcare professionals about the challenges they face in schools in a bid to increase understanding of the issue.

The taxpayer-funded training will see three teenagers deliver classes in Dudley to raise awareness of the support required by transgender youngsters.

Session one is aimed at school staff, including teachers and school nurses, who will be told how it feels to be a transgender young person. A further session will be run for youth and social workers, who come in contact with transgender children out of school. It is being organised by the Transgender Inclusive Schools Project (TISP), which is one of the first schemes of its kind in the country to focus on the needs of gender non-conforming teenagers.

Council bosses have hailed the training as a step towards a more tolerant and inclusive society. However, West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge says it is 'pandering to the politically correct brigade'.

Kitchen knives not for sale

POUNDLAND has stopped selling kitchen knives at all of its West Midlands stores following a series of stabbings across the region.

The discount retailer said the decision to take knives off the shelves of 59 shops was in response to 'colleague and community concern'.

The Black Country has been rocked by a spate of stabbings in recent months. Keelan Wilson, aged 15, was stabbed to death in Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, in May. James Brindley, 26, was killed as he walked home from a night out in Aldridge last year and 24-year-old Ryan Passey died from a knife wound at Chicago's nightclub in Stourbridge.

Poundland retail director Austin Cooke said: "In the wrong hands, knives can be used for the wrong purpose."

Professionals

Mr Etheridge, a former UKIP councillor in Dudley, said: "What training exactly have these young people had that allows them to lecture professionals who have spent many years training to get where they are now? More to the point, how can these individuals be so certain of their gender and sexuality as they are still in the adolescent phase? This kind of thing is pandering to the politically correct brigade and is an appalling use of tax-payers money."

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley defended the training and said it could be extremely valuable.

"Bill's criticism of this shows exactly why he has always been on the political fringes," said the Conservative councillor for Kingswinford South. "Times are changing and as a society we have to be more tolerant and inclusive towards all people. If this training can help young people, and indeed help staff to better understand what is going on, then we should welcome it."

No easy ride into retirement for teacher



Ian and Christabel Harper aim to be the eldest couple to ride the whole Pacific Coast Highway

A HUSBAND and wife are attempting a new world record by driving 30,000 miles along the longest road in the world on a pair of motorbikes.

Ian and Christabel Harper want to enter the Guinness World Records as the oldest husband and wife team, in a combined age, to ride from Alaska to Argentina using two motorbikes along the Pacific Coast Highway.

The couple, aged 54 and 60, from Stourbridge, will set off later this month and aim to raise £10,000 for mental health charity Mind.

Mr Harper said it should take them around six to seven months.

He added: "We a really wanted to have a go, it's been on my bucket list. Christabel is retiring as a teacher (from Harborne Academy), so instead of heading off to relax - she's doing this."

"We will be blogging along our journey and hopefully when we come we have plans to write a book - if we complete the challenge!"

To sponsor the couple visit www.jstgiving.com/fundraising/ian-harper8

Police rest cancelled to protect Trump

AROUND 1,000 rest days have been cancelled so West Midlands Police can send officers to London for Donald Trump's visit, which is due to start today (Thursday).

Up to 400 officers from the region are being dispatched to the nation's capital to deal with potential unrest, with the US President expected to be greeted by thousands of protesters.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has warned that providing support to the Met Police will have a 'major impact' on policing in the West Midlands.

Some of the officers will be stationed in London for three days.

"I am extremely worried that our force is being put under a significant amount of pressure by being asked to help with national events, like President Trump's visit," said Commissioner Jamieson.

Impact

"It is right that world leaders are able to safely visit the UK. The problem is that cuts have left the force with no capacity. It means when it is asked to help it has a hugely negative impact on policing in our area as officers rightly take days off to recover."

"Not so long ago the force had 2,100 more officers which meant we had the capacity to manage when called on to police national events. Sadly cuts mean the thin blue line is thinner than ever."

A 'Stop Trump' protest has been organised in London for tomorrow (Friday).

Speaking before his departure for Europe, Mr Trump said he will meet Prime Minister Theresa May at the Nato summit in Brussels before making his first visit to the UK as US president. Mr Trump insisted he got along with Mrs May 'very well' but suggested he might take time during his visit to speak with former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, who he described as 'a friend of mine'.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Not really a sharp move by chiefs at Poundland

SOME things defy belief. The Black Country based discount chain Poundland has announced it will stop selling kitchen knives by autumn over concerns about knife crime. Certainly knife crime is a serious matter, but will this really help?

Presuming that we are still going to be allowed to eat in 21st century Britain, then people are going to need kitchen knives. Not just gangsters and hoodlums, but ordinary people too, for cutting up food and things like that. We all need them.

Maybe this is the beginning of a sea-change in the way we buy household cutlery. Perhaps in future people will have to provide ID and register their details with the local police station before buying a bread knife or a butter spreader. But that wouldn't work as most of our police stations have closed.

Hopefully, other retailers will take a more pragmatic approach, and continue to stock kitchen knives, meaning we can continue to eat food without having to tear it apart like wild beasts. But that means the bad guys will still be able buy knives as well, just from different retailers.

Now, I'm all in favour of banning these horrible combat and "zombie" knives which cause so much misery, but kitchen knives? Really?

As far as I can see, there are two explanations. The one is that Poundland believes its customers are more likely to be involved in crime than the much nicer people who buy their knives elsewhere. The other is that it's just a bit of hollow virtue-signalling.

■■■■

MEANWHILE, Sandwell Council has come up with an innovative approach to tackling speeding drivers.

Motorists caught speeding outside Hamstead Junior School in Great Barr were given the choice of paying a fine, or being lectured by a group of 11-year-olds. Personally, I don't think this goes far enough. Why not do it properly and stick them in stocks in the playground, so the kids can throw school dinners at them?

While speeding outside a school is clearly irresponsible, this does seem a rather immature response. Two questions spring to mind: How much had the teachers 'coached' the children in what to say to the drivers, and what time did the transgressions occur? The worst offender was clocked at 35mph, which might well be dangerous when hundreds of children are crossing the road, but far less so when they are safely tucked away in assembly. Incidentally, Hamstead Junior School recently suspended two pupils for bringing 'large knives' into school. Maybe it has bigger things to worry about?

Grommets – and what we hear about them now



NHS founder Aneurin Bevan – spell-check for "Aneurin" suggests "unerring"



Monty Don – count the trowels hanging on the wall. There are nine of them



Tony Hancock – the forgotten comedian? But that's the way fame goes

'Miracle cure' that is now deemed risky

THE list of 17 procedures to be rationed by the NHS include ear grommets. I recall a persistent rumour from years ago that grommets, to fix a mysterious condition called glue ear, had been introduced chiefly to provide employment for ENT (ear, nose and throat) consultants who no longer removed adenoids or tonsils. We were told that grommets were a miracle cure. Now we are told they are among the procedures deemed unnecessary, ineffective or risky. Very odd.

AFTER a recent item on the obesity issue in Tredegar, home town of the NHS founder Aneurin Bevan, a reader suggests the NHS could launch fight-the-flab walking classes, to be named Tread Eager. Fans of Bevan will not be surprised that my computer spell-check for "Aneurin" suggests "unerring."

A COMMONS committee warns MPs that using Twitter is like "dipping their private parts in honey and exposing them to angry bees." Oh, please don't put ideas into their heads.

STILL dithering over having a tattoo? A heat-wave reveals millions of them, on show from dawn to bedtime, and the ravages of the years. Those once-pert rosebuds on a shoulder now look like enormous tumours and those elegant lizards on the leg are doing a fine impression of varicose veins. Think on.

THE RSPCA is among organisations which called for a sky-lantern festival in the tinder-dry Peak District to be cancelled. While they are at it, they might ask the organisers to tone down the advertising. In its publicity bumph, The Lights Fest invokes the words of Martin Luther King: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



can do that." I'm not entirely sure the US civil-rights legend was talking about flying naked flames over moorland in high summer. But, hey, why stop the advertising slogans at Dr King? Jesus said all sorts of stuff about light. Get Him on the posters, too.

GOOD old Auntie Beeb. England beat Colombia, the nation rejoiced and The World Tonight (Radio 4) took the view that the big story of the evening was the retirement age of judges in Poland being lowered from 70 to 65. Finger on the pulse, eh?

WHEN the authorities say the risk of nerve-agent poisoning in the Salisbury area is very low, does anyone seriously believe they know what they are talking about?

IN one Damon Runyon short story, the cops raid a bar and the gangsters hide all their guns in the pockets of an innocent customer, Tobias Tweeney. He is hauled before the court and becomes an instant Underworld hero, Twelve-Guns Tweeney. I am reminded of Tobias every time I see Monty Don in his potting shed in Gardener's World (BBC1). Count the trowels hanging on the wall. There are nine of them. Nobody needs that many. Who do ya think you're kidding, Nine-Trowels Monty?

A POSTER used by Adelaide University in Australia shows a group of five women apparently listening while the sole man in the group

is talking. This, as the BBC reports, has led to complaints of "mansplaining." The problem with reporting anything involving this concept is that at some stage in your report you have to explain what mansplaining is, for the benefit of thickos who don't know.

SO at the end of its report, the BBC tells us: "Mansplaining is when a man explains an issue to a woman in a manner regarded as condescending or patronising." I wonder how many women (or men) felt patronised by the BBC report. Now we all have something new to take offence about: Beebsplaining.

OH, the irony. Back in the 1960s President de Gaulle of France repeatedly blocked Britain's attempts to join the Common Market. Fifty-odd years on, Barnier is just as intransigent. It seems that when it comes to Europe, whether we try to get in or try to get out, the road is blocked by some bloody-minded Frenchman saying: "Non."

MALADIES for our time. After heat exhaustion and sunstroke, watch out for a national epidemic of sunfreeze. A reader turned up for a meeting one hot day in shorts, only to be half-chilled to death by the air-conditioning.

WHEN millennials take over. Private Eye spotted a promotion penned by some bright young thing on The Independent's website concerning "the forgotten British comedian who paved the way for Alan Partridge and David Brent". The forgotten comedian? Tony Hancock. But that's the way fame goes. We now have a generation of nurses who, when you are giving blood and quip in a jocular sort of way: "A pint? Why, that's very nearly an armful" just look blank.

TALKING POINT



Ideas flow in the heat of battle to save water

IT'S a no-win situation – bitter cold, windy and wet, people complain; heat-wave, people still complain.

I bumped into a woman shopping last week who said she could no longer stand the heat. I was sympathetic as it is very difficult to work outside when it is so hot, until she said she had been sitting in her garden reading. I suggested she maybe could move into the shade. Oh no, too much of an effort! Unbelievable.

Personally I love the sunshine but painting benches in the garden the other day I will admit that I was sweating – sorry glowing, not too gently – at the end of it.

That day I had to deliver some items to friends and on the way could hear the sound of – despite pleas to limit water usage – a power washer.

Yes, they do use a lot of water, but on my return journey hours later it was still in use. Heaven knows how much water that must have used and yet people are urged not to fill up paddling pools even though they must take a fraction of the amount used for cleaning a patio, which surely could wait until the weather cools down.

And England fans take note. We may have enjoyed more success than Germany in this World Cup, but we're still lagging behind them at saving water.

In this country our average water usage per person per day is 140 litres. Germany's is 120 litres, while Belgium is even more efficient, using only 107 litres a day.

With the country basking in the hottest June for 40 years, the demand for water increased massively.

Water saving tips include putting away garden sprinklers – they can use as much as 1,000 litres of drinking water in one hour, which is more water than a family of four normally use in a whole day – and instead of having a bath, take a shower, which uses 40 fewer litres of water and it's quicker, which means you can get back to watching the football sooner!

And one tip from Severn Trent, which for some reason appeals to me, is to ditch chores like washing the car and make sure there's enough water to go round for everyone, especially during mornings and evenings when demand is much higher than normal.

If paddling pools put increased demand on water supplies, don't let the little ones miss out on fun in the sun – why not give them a bucket of water and a water pistol instead to keep them entertained.

On a final note, if everyone could just use around 20 litres less each it would make a massive difference to our water supplies. And in that way you can keep what matters most hydrated – you and your family.

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Remarkable students mean future in safe hands

I am constantly being amazed by folk that I meet. This could be guests on the Omma n Chain show I host with local young lads Scott and Craig for Black Country Radio or in the community.

One of my second homes is St Michael's in Rowley Regis. For a few years I have been a small part of their Links and Student Voices group. I was lucky enough with Bren Hawthorne to work on the World War One project. It acknowledged the soldiers on the plaque found at St Giles' church. The development of the project led

to this inter-generational group of pupils and members of the church. The organic way it grew was to me a confirmation that ageism does not apply in this school.

The war project was just the tip of the iceberg as I knew the pupils (who have taken over the radio show a couple of times) had so much more they were involved with.

I was over the moon then to receive an invite to their presentation evening and also asked to sing two of the songs I had written for the project. The evening took the form of groups

presenting aspects of various projects. The subject matter was diverse, from money raised (a considerable amount) for Birmingham Children's Hospital, another for Children of Chernobyl. There was a food bank project (with a brilliant rap) and a fascinating project that dealt with forms of identity and issues that we face in the 21st century. When you think these students are 11 to 15, it makes all their efforts (driven by member of staff Kerry Whitehouse) all the more remarkable. **DR B DAKIN (BILLY SPAKE MON)** Rowley Regis

Waste of our urban rail route

YOUR letter writer, Len Hales asks 'where are the rail lines anymore?' (The Chronicle, July 5). The authorities, for 50 years, have been busy selling off urban railway lines for every kind of building imaginable that have all been granted planning permission by our whiz kid councillors!

The most recent was in October 2016 by Dudley councillors. Dudley Castle Hill railway station site is now getting built on when the railway lines and track bed are intact and run for 120km from Worcester to Derby. The former main line station at Castle Hill is now to be used for a £30 million suite of buildings for an innovation centre. All of this is outrageous and absurd.

Why sever a 120km railway through the congested West Midlands with a tramline, a test track, trees, Japanese knotweed and undergrowth, when we could have trains and stations back for less money?

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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If we cannot reach a resolution contact ipso.co.uk or by post at ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 3LG

Dogs die when a car becomes an oven

THERE have been numerous incidents again, reported on social internet sites, of dogs being left in cars, while their owners 'go shopping', etc.

With the current temperatures that we have, the temperature can soon rise to 120 degrees plus inside a car, even with windows slightly open.

This is probably equal to putting your Christmas turkey in the oven to cook it! The only difference is the turkey is already dead.

Leave your dogs at home with water and shade, or lose your pet for good. They cannot regulate their body temperature like us.

MARTIN STONES
Dudley

Help NHS survive 70 more years

NOW that the NHS has turned 70, it is an important time not only to celebrate all of the great achievements but to look forward to how we can improve it for the future.

The NHS remains an important and consistent part of the lives of many people in the West Midlands. Though it has survived the last 70 years in its current state, the NHS needs greater attention and investment if it is to survive another 70.

The recent announcement of funding by the Government is a welcome step but is short of the four per cent uplift that the British Medical Association (BMA) and many health policy experts have suggested is the minimum needed.

From the birth of a baby to palliative care at the end of life, the NHS is there for us when we need it most. The Government must ensure it is there for the NHS. **DR STEPHEN MILLAR**
BMA West Midlands regional chair

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8 Growth Hub helps food firm grow

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 12, 2018

THE Black Country Growth Hub has helped a Cradley Heath business to grow.

Manor Abbey Foods engaged it for additional support with its growth strategy and BCGH quickly sign-posted a number of key contacts that could help the business achieve its goals.

It introduced Manor Abbey Foods to Sandwell Council, who had the resources, experience and influence to assist the business.

The business, established in 2000, supplies frozen, chilled and ambient food to schools, cafes and other businesses across the Black Country. Led by managing director Paul Wrighton it has grown into a well-known local business with a reputation for delivering an efficient service for all its customers.

It provides a range of high-quality coated chicken products, Manor Abbey Foods has an extensive product list that includes battered, breaded and plain fish products, potato and bread items, sandwich fillings, cakes, desserts, pies, pasties and quiches.

The company also delivers products to members of the public, as well as supplying a number of local organisations, including Sandwell Academy, George Salter Academy and Sandwell Valley Crematorium

Fines for smoking outside hospital

STAFF and patients will be fined for smoking outside Sandwell Hospital.

Hospital bosses want to make the site 'smoke free' from next summer.

Signs around the hospital will warn patients, visitors and staff they will face penalties if caught smoking on the grounds. It is not yet known how much the penalties will be.

Firefighters' new carer role withdrawn after strike threat

Peaky Climbers hit heights for charity



The Peaky Climbers from Higgs & Sons complete their challenge on Snowdon in North Wales

A TEAM from a Black Country law firm scaled Britain's highest peaks in just 24 hours as part of a gruelling charity challenge.

Ten colleagues from Brierley Hill-based Higgs & Sons, who called themselves the Peaky Climbers, reached the top of the highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales – Scafell

Pike, Ben Nevis and Snowdon – on Friday and Saturday. The climb was in aid of Dudley Mind, the firm's charity of the year, and around £3,500 has been raised.

Higgs & Sons said on the firm's Twitter account: "They did it! Snowdon assailed, and back down within the 24 hours! #proud"

The intrepid group of legal professionals taking on the National Three Peaks Challenge were also sponsored by Sadler's Brewery in Lye, who produces Peaky Blinder Ale.

The Peaky Climbers trained on the Malvern Hills.

See <https://localgiving.org/fund-raising/peakyclimbers/> to donate.

FIRE bosses have been forced into a U-turn over plans to take firefighters off the front line to transport people to hospital or help pensioners after a fall.

The Fire Brigade's Union claimed West Midlands Fire Authority planned to use flexible contracts to make firefighters undertake non-emergency work – including transporting people to and from hospital and helping pensioners who fall in their home.

But the scheme has now been ditched after a backlash from furious union members, who had threatened to go on strike.

Steve Price-Hunt, the brigade secretary for the Fire Brigade's Union (FBU) in the West Midlands, said the work was 'completely inappropriate' for firefighters. "Being a carer or nurse takes a unique individual to cope with the mental and physical demands," he said.

Medical

"A lot of firefighters did not sign up for a medical or carer role and are not equipped to deal with the mental pressures that come with it. You wouldn't expect a nurse to run into a burning building, so why should it be the other way round?"

The FBU says firefighters were asked to respond to falls in the home, half of which were intended for other emergency services, and operators would handle calls from lonely members of the public.

"This would have seen firefighters in the emergency control room tied up on non-emergency calls – putting 999 callers at risk and people who needed us in a life or death situation," added Mr Price-Hunt.

The contracts have been withdrawn.

£.6.7m social work staff bill for temps

DUDLEY Council has spent nearly £7 million on temporary social workers in the last financial year, new figures have revealed.

The authority has spent £6,731,869.91 on temporary or agency social work professionals between April 2017 and March 2018.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Angus Lees, said that reducing the number of agency and temporary staff is one of the authority's "key focuses for the future".

He added that the council closely monitors the use of agency staff to ensure they are being cost effective.

The figures, which have been revealed through a Freedom of Information request, also showed that the number of temporary social workers working for the council on April 2, included 67 children's social workers.

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Express & Star

Volunteer Carl rewarded for decade of dedication

A CHARITY volunteer who has given up more than 130 weekends to support Cancer Research UK Race for Life events has picked up a top award.

Carl Lubbock from Halesowen has volunteered almost every weekend for the past 10 years during Race for Life season, which is from May to September.

He's also worked right through the night several times at the charity's Shine London marathon night walk.

His dedication to the cause has earned him a national Flame of Hope Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cause.

Double

The awards acknowledge remarkable efforts in fundraising and volunteering made by people from all walks of life.

Mr Lubbock, a 58-year-old retired systems analyst, took the Event Volunteer of the Year accolade, beating competition from other nominees from across the UK.

The award was presented last week at a ceremony in London hosted by Cancer Research UK chairman Sir Leszek Borysiewicz.

An audience at the Merchant Taylors' Hall heard how Carl is often the first volunteer to arrive on site at 5am and the last to leave. At Shine London Carl has been known to volunteer for double shifts, working from 4pm until 10am the next day.

Lorna Hartley, Cancer Research UK's area events manager for the Midlands, who made the nomination, said: "Carl is amazing. He's consistently blown us away with his energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the cause."



Carl Lubbock, left, of Halesowen receives the award from Sir Leszek Borysiewicz

Mr Lubbock, a keen cyclist who retired from Eon 10 years ago, admitted to being slightly mystified by the nomination because he enjoys volunteering so much.

"After retiring early I was looking for something worthwhile to do. I went along to volunteer at Worcester Race for Life 10 years ago and was made to feel so welcome I signed up to as many as I could.

"It's an amazing event and it's be-

come such a big part of my life I really miss it during the winter months. I've made some great friends and I volunteer almost every weekend from April to September."

Mr Lubbock's experience as a volunteer has so inspired him that he's decided to take part in the Shine London event - Cancer Research UK's marathon night walk - on September 22.

For more information about Cancer Research UK visit cruk.org website.

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£77m in Government funds for housing scheme

THE Government is pumping £77 million into a housing partnership to get more than 14,000 affordable homes built nationwide over the next four years. The money for the Matrix Housing Partnership will see 2,257 new homes in the Midlands.

It is part of the first wave of strategic partnerships agreed between the Government's Homes England agency to ramp up the building of affordable homes. The target is to build 14,280 additional affordable homes by March 2022.

The deals include homes for social rent in areas where house prices are particularly high, with the funding available boosted by the Government's announcement of an additional £1.67 billion for the £9bn affordable homes programme.

Eight partners have signed up to deliver more than 23,500 homes across all tenures, including for sale on the open market.

In total, Homes England will provide a funding package of just under £590m through to March 2022 to support the first wave of strategic partnerships with Matrix Housing Partnership, emh group, Great Places, Home Group, Hyde, L&Q, Places for People, and Sovereign/Liverty.



New homes being built by the Accord housing association in Woden Road, Wolverhampton

Experts at Aston Uni for UK tinnitus expo

THE UK's first-ever tinnitus expo is set to take place in Birmingham. The British Tinnitus Association (BTA) is hosting its inaugural 'Talking Tinnitus' event at Aston University on September 15.

It will bring together the wealth of information for people living with the condition. The day-long event, the first of its kind, will offer tinnitus sufferers the chance to try therapies and techniques, which aim to help manage the condition, as well as seeking help and support from the BTA and experts. The expo will feature an exhibitor hall of products and services designed to support the estimated six million people living with tinnitus in the UK.

David Stockdale, chief executive of the BTA, said: "We've already had bookings from people in Poland, Sweden and Jersey and are expecting lots of people to make the journey to Birmingham for this event."

Tickets cost £12 in advance from tinnitus.org.uk/Event/talkingtinnitus

Taxi driver attacked woman with knife

A DRUG-ADDLED taxi driver who attacked a woman with a knife while high on cocaine was starting an 18 month jail sentence last week

Abdul Jabbar knew the woman and had asked her to give him a lift when his vehicle was dropped off for repair.

The pair left in convoy after meeting by agreement in Highfield Road, Netherton, but he parked alongside a nearby block of flats and climbed into her car with a bag, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The married 41-year-old admitted he was 'coked up' and had been taking drugs all night, revealed Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The court heard how the defendant told the woman: 'Sorry, I don't know what I'm doing' before producing an eight inch blade knife from the bag.

Grabbed

The terrified woman tried to get out but was grabbed by the hair by Jabbar in the incident on August 26 last year, the court heard.

"She was kicking and screaming and managed to wriggle away from him to open her door," continued Mr Searle.

She got out and started to phone the police as he dashed round the car to put a hand over her mouth yelling: 'Shut up, shut up or I will stab you.'

Her cries for help were heard by a member of the public whose shouts spooked the attacker into

throwing the victim to the ground and fleeing in his taxi. He was arrested soon afterwards.

The court heard that the petrified victim was not physically injured but is now frightened whenever she leaves her home and has had to change her car as it reminds her of the attack.

Mr Curtis Myrie, defending, said Jabbar's marriage was on the rocks and he had developed a serious cocaine problem.

Jabbar from Corporation Road, Dudley, admitted assault and threatening with a blade in a way that caused risk of serious harm.

He was sent to prison by Judge James Burbidge QC, who told him: "You pre planned to get a woman on her own in a car while 'coked up' and in possession of a knife.

"You had your own agenda but have not been entirely honest when claiming she had nothing to fear from you."

Troubled academy will switch trusts

A TROUBLED academy rated inadequate by school inspectors Ofsted is to be taken over by a new trust. The Ace Academy in Tipton has been in special measures for two years.

It is to leave control of the Education Central Multi-Academy Trust, run by the University of Wolverhampton. Leaders at the academy, which has more than 1,400 pupils, and was formerly known as the Alexandra School, were told by Ofsted in April that not enough progress was being made.

Parents have now been informed that the school will be taken over by another trust in an effort to bring about the improvement needed. The school has been beset by problems since converting to academy status.

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12 Murder probe after young father killed

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 12, 2018

A MURDER investigation has been launched after a father who was attacked outside the pub where he worked died in hospital.

Matthew Powney, aged 31, suffered serious head injuries when he was assaulted outside the Malthouse, a Wetherspoons pub in Willenhall, where he had worked for seven years.

Mr Powney, who has a baby daughter, was rushed to hospital in a critical condition after the attack around midnight on Monday but died in hospital the following afternoon with his family by his side.

A post-mortem was taking place on Tuesday to determine the cause of death. Police said he was attacked when a bystander to a fight that had already broken out.

They are treating his death as murder and have already spoken to several witnesses, but are appealing for anyone else with information to come forward.

Eddie Gershon, a spokesman for Wetherspoons, which owns the pub, said: "We are devastated by the death of Matt Powney."

"Matt worked for the company for more than seven years and was highly regarded and liked by both staff and customers. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends."

Primary school pupils' heritage art on show

HALESOWEN College has been celebrating the art work of pupils from Halesbury Church of England Primary School and Hurst Green Primary School by hosting a special exhibition.

The theme was local heritage and involved the pupils researching their area and producing work. The exhibition was opened by Dudley Deputy Mayor Councillor Hilary Bills.

Police officer survey shows many want to be armed

Success for college's beauty students

TWO students from Halesowen College have come first and third in the regional heats of a National Beauty World Skills competition.

Demi Harper was given first place and Jessica Shortland came third, both are studying a Level Three course in Beauty Therapy.

The World Skills competition focuses on the role and the tasks of a beauty therapist and those taking part had to carry out a back cleanse followed by a back massage, a mini facial with evening make-up and a French polish to fingers.

All of the treatments had to be carried out within a time limit of one hour and 40 minutes.

Standards

Alicia Harper, from Halesowen College, said: "The competition is designed to promote standards and skills across and industry and Demi and Jessica did themselves proud."

"They were observed through all the stages and put all their hard work into practice to a tight deadline."

"We will find out after all the regional heats whether they have got through to the UK final in August."

Demi is aged 18 and lives in Halesowen and Jessica is 19 from Coseley.

To study beauty at Halesowen College, which is currently inviting full time applications for September 2018, get more details from the college at www.halesowen.ac.uk website.



Students Jessica Shortland, left, and Demi Harper impressed with their beauty skills

MORE than 40 per cent of police officers in the West Midlands want firearms while on duty, a survey of officers found.

The questionnaire to 2,140 officers also found half feared their life had been in danger at least once over the past two years. The survey by the West Midlands Police Federation has led to calls from the body for all frontline officers to be equipped with at least Taser electric stun guns. Currently, only 22 per cent of officers have access to Tasers.

The recently-published survey comes following several attacks on officers in the Black Country.

Last week an officer was beaten up when dealing with a gang of armed men in Stone Street in Dudley, and a police officer was spat at and another racially abused at the Pitch Sports Bar in Walsall.

On June 28, a female officer was threatened by a burglary suspect with a knife in Brownhills, and the day before an officer was throttled at a pub in Birmingham.

The survey was carried out last year and had a 32 per cent response.

Training

Forty two per cent of the officers who responded said they should get training and be equipped with firearms when on duty, another 18 per cent said officers should be issued with guns when necessary.

Asked if they would be prepared to carry a firearm when on duty, 63 per cent said 'yes'.

When asked on fears over their lives when on duty, 57 per cent said they had felt in serious danger at least once over the past two years.

Last month Simon Chesterman, the national lead for armed police, said routine arming of regular officers was an option given the terror threat.

Asian pop stars top the bill at Mela

THE ZEE Sandwell and Birmingham Mela, said to be the biggest Asian music festival in Europe, takes place in Smethwick's Victoria Park this weekend.

Visitors to the Mela are invited to visit Creative Black Country's new Arts Village, a space to be creative and inspired with a full weekend programme of activities including art workshops, a TukTuk photo booth and top music and dance acts from South Asia.

The ZEE Sandwell & Birmingham Mela is anticipated to attract 70,000 people to hear music from such as Shide Boss, Miss Pooja, Ali Zafar and Roshan Prince.

There will also be a world food zone with cookery classes, a bazaar and fun fair. It's open from noon to 7pm and daily admission is £1 on the gate.

Further details can be found at bir.minghammela.com website.



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WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

Museum is playing a blinder for the future

THE boss of the Black Country Living Museum has set his sights high as plans for a new historic town on the Tipton Road site moves forward.

A new visitor centre will also be opened providing a new entrance for up to 5,000 people a day.

Both are on target to be opened by Spring 2022.

Chief executive Andrew Lovett said: "We are progressing with plans for the historic town and visitor centre. On the back of rising visitor numbers this is a very exciting time for the museum."

"We are also getting attention from across the world with the filming of Peaky Blinders and Antiques Roadshow."

"But we will never stand still and we will look to improve the attraction whenever we can."

"Our aim is to become one of the most impressive museums in Europe."

The £25 million project, called Forging Ahead, has been made possible partly thanks to a £9.8m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund last year.

Expansion

Further funding is hoped to come from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, Arts Council England and Dudley Council.

Lowell Williams, chairman of the Black Country Living Museum Trust, said funding support marked 'an end and a beginning'.

In a report as part of the submitted accounts to the Charity Commission, he said: "The project - the single largest enlargement in the museum's history - will see us saving heritage, telling new and more diverse stories, targeting annual visitor attendance of 500,000."

The project, bosses say, will bring



Boss Andrew Lovett in 'Charlie's Yard' from Peaky Blinders with Adrian Horton

£100m to the local economy and create 143 full-time jobs. This month, architects are continuing to work on the plans for the historic town, and the buildings and their locations have been chosen. It will be based on two roads, Market Place and Pinfold lane, next to the attraction's fairground.

The attraction already has the bricks for one of the buildings. It had to move quickly when West Bromwich's Gas Showroom was knocked down. The bricks are now kept in safe storage at the museum.

Other buildings to be reconstructed include Dudley's Victorian Woodside Library, which closed in 2008, and the J H Lavender Aluminium Foundry from Crankhall Lane, in West Bromwich.

Also to be recreated at The Harris & Pearson Brickworks of Brierley Hill, Wolverhampton's Elephant and Castle Pub, the Lea Road Medical Centre from Wolverhampton and Stanton's Records, which stood on Hall Street, Dudley.

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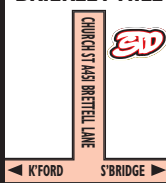
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DUDLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

Style your garden to help keep thieves away

YOU may have locked your doors and windows, installed a burglar alarm and prompted neighbours to keep a watch over your home while you're on holiday, writes Hannah Stephenson.

But have you considered how the style and design of your garden could help deter thieves too? At this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, which finished on Sunday, designers Lucy Glover and Jacqueline Poll had a crime prevention garden that was both stunning and secure, a collaboration between crime prevention initiative Secured By Design with Capel Manor College and the Metropolitan Police.

The striking urban garden featured green security measures, such as columnar trees and prickly plants, but also a calming atmosphere and soft relaxed planting, including beautiful perennials and grasses.

"Some 75 per cent of all burglaries across the Met are via a rear garden. Those with criminal intention are looking for opportunity," said Constable Leslie Gipps, a designing out crime officer with the Metropolitan Police. "What we do in Secured By Design is put in those layers which make it harder for the criminal to spend any real time trying to break in. They will just leave that garden and go for one that's simpler."

Want to add some crime-preventing layers to your garden? Here, the garden designers and Met officers recommend some ways to help deter criminals from targeting your property...

PRICKLY PLANTS

Create a hedge of prickly plants, such as Osmanthus, pyracantha or berberis, next to boundary fencing, which can act as a layer to deter thieves.

In the crime prevention garden, the designers used Osmanthus heterophyllus, a shrub with sharply toothed leaves (similar to holly) under the windows, Berberis thunbergii f. atropurpurea, with stems that bear spiky spines, and pyracantha, a dense spiky shrub which is great grown as a hedge. Pyracantha will grow in any soil and is fast-growing.

GREEN SCREENS

Boundary fences can be the first line of defence, and a good bet is a wire mesh which you can adorn with ivy or other "green screen" – these look pretty but also act as a good deterrent. After all, a wire fence is unlikely to take someone's weight.

DUSK-'TIL-DOWN LIGHTS

Install dusk-'til-dawn low-voltage lights to ensure visibility in the garden at night. Stone effect solar lights will provide additional lighting and sculptural interest throughout the garden.

GRAVEL AROUND THE HOUSE

Gravel is noisy when walked on, so having it around your property means you can hear any uninvited visitors approaching the house. It also alerts dogs.

CURTAIN PLANTING

"The aim is to have rich colour in the garden but not big solid shrubs that somebody can hide behind, so ideally grasses and other plants you can see through," said Glover. Light planting, such as grasses and "curtain planting" with Verbena bonariensis and Sanguisorba canadensis, allows the homeowner to see through the planting.

NARROW TREES

If you want to include architectural interest, use columnar-shaped trees, which are more difficult for intruders to hide behind and also difficult to climb.

ROSES

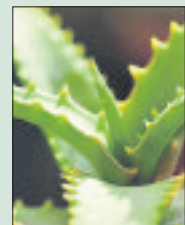
Thorny roses can be used to great effect by training them over pergolas and other supports, which thieves might otherwise climb. The designers used rotating bars on their pergola to prevent thieves climbing. Roses will also give you scent and colour.

GREEN ROOF

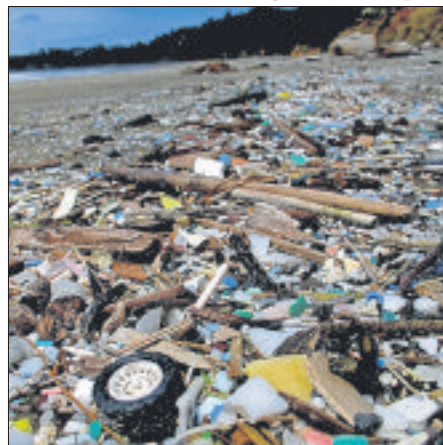
Consider a green roof on your shed featuring spiky plants. The designers have planted a swathe of sedum on their shed roof, interplanted with aloe, a sharper specimen. Any intruder putting their hands on the shed roof would get a handful of prickles.

SHED SECURITY

Don't leave tools outside, but also make it difficult for thieves to gain access to the shed, where you store them.



Discovery of plastic-eating enzyme welcomed



Will the discovery mean the end of plastic being discarded?

SCIENTISTS have discovered by accident a plastic-eating enzyme that could revolutionise recycling and help solve the pollution problems in the world's oceans.

"It sounds like something out of science fiction," said green energy expert Ron Fox. "But it could be one of the great discoveries of this century."

The finding could reduce the time it takes plastic to decompose from centuries to just days and could make it recyclable.

The breakthrough came when scientists found a plastic eating bacterium that had evolved naturally at a Japanese recycling plant two years ago.

When they used one of the world's most powerful microscopes in Oxfordshire, which can see individual atoms, to work out its complex molecular structure they changed the enzyme inadvertently and made it more efficient.

Experts at the University of Portsmouth, together with the US Department of Energy, worked out that when they added a solution of the enzyme to plastic its surface literally began to dissolve away.

Professor John McGeehan, who led the research, said even they were shocked by the reaction of the improved enzyme.

They hope to broaden their work so that the enzyme could turn one of the most common plastics used in soft drinks bottles, polyethylene terephthalate, into original new plastic to be used again.

They want eventually to speed up the system and make it

a large scale process so that it will reduce the industry's reliance on oil and the amount of plastic in the environment.

At present around one million plastic bottles are sold every minute around the globe with just 14 per cent recycled. Most of the rest end up in the world's oceans harming marine life and potentially people who eat seafood.

Even those bottles which are recycled now can be turned only into opaque fibres for clothing and carpets and cannot yet be made into reusable clear plastic.

"This discovery is badly needed because if this issue is not tackled soon there will be more plastic, by weight, than fish in our oceans by 2050," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on University of Keele Science and Innovation Park.

"However, I think the public perception is changing and they want to stop this ever-growing mountain of discarded plastic. But they can't be complacent, this invention will take time to be brought into operation worldwide."

He added: "In the meantime, shoppers and householders need to play their part by encouraging companies and shops to cut back their dependence on plastic packaging."

"They should also reduce their carbon footprint by recycling where possible and ensuring their homes are environmentally friendly and by using green energy."

Mr Fox recommended looking at renewable alternatives such as rooftop solar photovoltaic panels, which change energy from the sun into domestic electricity, and air source heat pumps, which convert heat from the atmosphere into power for the home.

Use water carefully while weather remains scorchio

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



FOR anybody who came of age in the 1990s and watched "The Fast Show" there was a comedy skit involving a TV weather presenter.

Her bulletins from an unidentified country were almost uniformly the same... hot hot and hotter!

Well it has been a lot like that here and with the sunny dry spell set to continue it is worthwhile considering how to mitigate the affects of drought stress.

Water water everywhere might be the obvious answer, but making frivolous use of this precious resource is likely to do little to help.

The heat of the day means that water is easily drawn from the surface of the soil so ideally water early in the morning or late in the evening. This means that water will penetrate deeper and get to the roots where it is most needed so give your plants a really good soak rather than a quick splash and dash. Shallow watering will draw roots to the surface leaving the plants even more vulnerable to stress.

For containers consider moving them into a shady spot so that the pots themselves do not heat up and stand them in a saucer of water so that the water is replenished during the day and the roots are kept cool.

Evaporation

A great solution for plants in the ground or in containers is to use porous pipe or soaker hose which uses a low volume of water from an outside tap or water butt and gradually soaks the soil drop by drop. Because the water is applied directly very little is lost to evaporation.

Mulching around the base of plants will also help to conserve moisture in the soil because the water will be drawn from it first before the soil. Use compost, bark or gravel but thoroughly soak the area first so that you don't simply lock in the dryness.

Plants are losing water all the time. Water is lost through microscopic openings in the leaves and is replaced by water taken up through the roots. This process is called transpiration.

In the event of severe drought keeping the roots of herbaceous plants alive will ultimately keep the plant alive. If you have herbaceous plants that you wish to save then consider cutting off the whole plant at the base. This seems drastic – and it is.

For many plants such as geraniums and oriental poppies this will form part of routine maintenance, tidying them up after they have flowered. This can also be done with later perennials such as crocosmia, rudbeckia and asters and many more. The foliage that you cut away will be replaced



The prolonged warm weather is starting to dry out reservoirs – so think carefully about how you use water in the garden



It was only a comedy sketch – but the weather really is scorchio

my a neat mound of new growth eventually and maybe some late blooms. The important thing to consider is that at least they will be alive.

A word must be said about lawns. Grass will recover. Grass roots go deep and although the top may have gone brown the

sward will return with rain. They can be kept green by irrigation and sprinklers but really this is a poor use of water at a time when it has to be conserved!

On another serious note. Gardeners as well as everyone should be careful.

As a retained firefighter I know that many



There are ways of using low volumes of water

brigades, Shropshire included are stretched by demands placed on them by the current drought. Please think and act responsibly, conserve water and be careful when having a barbecue, using fires or disposing of rubbish. A carelessly tossed cigarette or glass bottle can be enough to start a major blaze.

Magical Cornish tale from a Dudley author

Somewhere Beyond the Sea
Miranda Dickinson

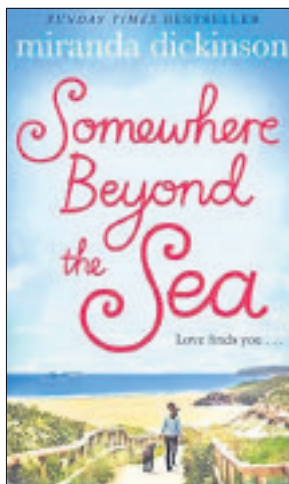
LONG sandy Cornish beaches, a budding romance and a touch of magic – all the ingredients for a perfect summer read.

So much affection and familiarity is written into almost every line of this book that you would assume it was written by a born-and-bred resident of St Ives, where it is set, not a Black Country lass.

Author Miranda Dickinson clearly has an intense love of the area and its history, which seeps through in every chapter.

Sunday Times bestselling author Miranda lives in Dudley and has previously told how her first ambition was "to write a book worthy of display on the shelves of wonderful Kingswinford Library, which, at the time, was not much bigger than somebody's living room, but to wide-eyed five-and-a-half year old me was a palace of dreams."

With this her ninth book, having been published in seven languages and sold over half a million copies, she is now guaranteed a good spot in the library.



Cover of the best-selling Dudley author's latest novel, set in Cornwall with both emotional and financial challenges. Fate seems to intervene as their paths are repeatedly brought together.

They find themselves on opposite sides of a planning battle with Jack managing the redevelopment of a historic site, the derelict former home of a much-loved local astronomer, while Seren rallies the townsfolk in a fight to hold onto the building.

Seren's grief at the loss of her father is clearly quite overwhelming for her and is the motivation for almost everything she does. It comes across as very raw and touches the reader.

Miranda Dickinson first became captivated by stories at Kingswinford Library Jack's loss is very different and it is not until the closing chapters that he, and we the readers, really understand it. Their grief is very vividly portrayed and may reflect the fact that Dickinson's own father died suddenly while she was writing the book.

Despite this sadness, and the blows that life deals both Seren and Jack, it is a warm and magical book. There is empathy and affection for the protagonists and it is a book that gives us all a little hope. The perfect book to have in your bag, or on your Kindle, when you hit the beach or relax in the heatwave.

Review by Diane Davies

Heart

St Ives has clearly won a place in her heart and made a lasting impression with her latest chick-lit novel having been conceived a couple of years ago in the picturesque coastal town.

In fact much of it was written overlooking gorgeous Porthmeor Beach, her favourite, and regular visitors will no doubt recognise places, or maybe even themselves, such as Aggie's beach café which is based on the Porthgwen Beach café.

The novel follows the stories of shop owner Seren MacArthur and young father Jack Dixon who are both recently bereaved and both struggling

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16 Cannabis conviction rate falls by a third

JUST 14 people were jailed for cannabis possession in the West Midlands last year as convictions for holding the drug plummeted by a third.

In 2012, a total of 1,047 people were found guilty of cannabis possession, according to figures from the Ministry of Justice. But by 2017 this number had dropped by 37 per cent to 663.

Of those successfully prosecuted by West Midlands Police, 442 were given a fine or a discharge, while only 14 spent any time behind bars.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said the low conviction rate is partly down to a steep reduction in officer numbers.

He explained: "There are more than 2,000 fewer officers than there were eight years ago. This has led to a combination of two factors, fewer people to enforce the law and they have had to focus on issues that cause the most harm, such as violent crime."



Freddie-Lee Johnson, 16, centre, with staff and students at The Brades Lodge in Tivdale

Friends bike and hike to support pal Freddie

THEY cycled, they hiked and they came together to support for a friend. Staff and students from The Brades Lodge school in Tivdale took the mammoth journey from the Black Country to Snowdon in a bid to raise funds for two cancer charities.

Head of school Simon Hobbs said the school's students had rallied in support of fellow pupil Freddie-Lee Johnson, 16, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer last November.

Freddie's best friend Bradley Massey, 16, led the 120-mile cycle from Lower City Road to Mount Snowdon - where the group camped for

a night before hiking to the summit. Mr Hobbs said: "It was very tough. The cycling was just around 100 miles and it took its toll but was well worth it with more than £1,000 raised. It is amazing for a small school to raise that amount of money, it is the most we have ever raised. Freddie came out for the photos. He was just too unwell to do the event."

The money will go towards the Teenage Cancer Trust and the Odd Balls Foundation.

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simon-hobbs4 or www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simon-hobbs5

'Horrifying' figures over liver disease

HOSPITALS across the Black Country and Staffordshire treated more than 450 patients for alcohol-related liver disease last year, new figures reveal.

The NHS figures represent a 35 per cent increase in the illness over the last five years and have led to calls for setting a minimum price per unit of alcohol to curb problem drinking.

Accident and emergency teams in Wolverhampton treated 109 patients for booze-fuelled liver disease last year - a rate of 52 for every 100,000 people and 75 per cent up from 2012. The rate for the whole of England is 26 for every 100,000 people.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group treated 165 patients, while in Walsall A&E teams treated 79.

Reduce

A total of 86 patients were treated for alcohol-related liver disease at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, and the Stafford and Surrounds Clinical Commissioning Group saw 21 patients, according to the figures.

Professor Roger Williams, director of the Institute of Hepatology, said the statistics for England were 'horrifying' and proposed setting a minimum price per unit of alcohol to reduce cases of liver disease.

"Liver disease is the only exception to the improvement over the past years in

By Peter Madeley

life expectancy for chronic disorders such as strokes, heart disease and many cancers," he said.

Mortality rates have increased by around 600 per cent in the last 50 years, due to a nationwide increase in alcohol consumption which experts say is linked to a reduced cost of booze in shops.

Prof Williams added: "Setting a minimum alcohol price is a highly effective way of dealing with the problem. In Canada, they had a 14 per cent drop in emergency admissions and 8 per cent drop in mortality in the first twelve months after setting this minimum."

Judi Rhys, CEO of the British Liver Trust, called on GPs to improve their awareness of the risk of factors. She said: "Liver disease is a silent killer because there are often no obvious symptoms in the early stages. Three quarters of people are diagnosed in a hospital when the condition is quite advanced."

Mirror, signal, watch out for that pothole

POTHOLEs should be included in the hazard perception test and Highway Code as the continued deterioration of UK roads is now badly affecting learner drivers, according to The AA.

Pothole-ridden roads are causing driving tests to be abandoned and special advice for learner drivers, according to a poll of AA Driving School and BSM instructors.

In the survey all who responded said they encounter potholes on every or most driving lessons. The majority said they had broken down during a lesson at least once in the last 12 months because of pothole damage Damage to tyres, wheels and suspension were the most common problems.

The AA wants potholes to be included in the hazard perception part of the driving test and advice included in the Highway Code. The breakdown service also said only London saw more pothole-related damage than the West Midlands.



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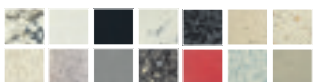
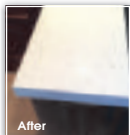
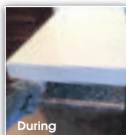
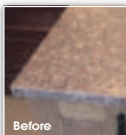
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TV is great but we prefer to sing live!

Back in the day, Jamie Lambert used to drive past the Royal Albert Hall and the London Palladium and dream. He was working part-time in the finance department of Barts Health NHS Trust, in London, and looking for a break.

And while he hoped he might one day sing at such incredible venues or enjoy chart success, he realised it wasn't sensible to bank on that.

And then his life changed.

He became friends with Matt Pagan and the two of them used social media to find three other singers to complete the Collabro line-up. They gigged at a pub near London Bridge and decided to audition for Britain's Got Talent, figuring they had nothing to lose.

A month after forming, they found themselves singing for Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams. Their rendition of Stars, from Les Misérables, earned them a standing ovation.

Four months later, they appeared on BGT's live final – and won by a landslide with more than a quarter of the vote. Things have never been the same since. They signed a million pound record deal and their debut album went to number one. They headlined the London Palladium and sold 50,000 tickets for their tour, as well as joining Cliff Richard on his major headline tour of the UK.

Jamie says it's been a whirlwind. "It's been fabulous. I loved working at Barts but Collabro has changed my life dramatically and sometimes it's a bit weird to drive past where I used to work. It's been four years now and we've just announced the fourth major tour and fourth album."

That tour will visit Birmingham's Symphony Hall on April 15 and Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on April 16 next year – before they return to the Albert Hall a few days later.

Prior to that, they'll play Telford's The Place In The Park Festival on August 16 and then support Barry Manilow at Birmingham's Arena on September 4. It's a busy old year.

"We have a very dedicated fan base and we're gigging throughout the year. The people who follow us feel very much like fans for life; it's almost like a family. The fans are very much valued."

"From our perspective, we hope to keep going for a long time. We each have our own little bits outside the band and do separate pantos but then we get back together to do these epic 50-date tours."

Jamie keeps his feet on the ground and doesn't forget how fortunate the band are. One minute he was working in the NHS – within a month or so he was on TV for the start of an incredible ride.

"We are privileged to have been going for four years. Last year we released our own album and it still got into the top 10 and when it comes to touring we're doing more tickets than ever before. We're having to look forward for about a year-and-a-half."

"We work and arrange our own stuff. We still perform to tens of thousands of people all the time and there is a degree of pride in how things have gone. We've always worked to bring



On a song – Collabro will be appearing in Telford in August

musical theatre to more people – that was our aim when we did BGT. By combining musical theatre with that boy band group thing, we wanted to appeal to more people."

Jamie has mixed feelings about Britain's Got Talent. Much of it was surreal as the band found themselves becoming an overnight success. Other bits were entirely forgettable.

"The truth about BGT is that a lot of it was awful. It's sort of like anything that's incredible, there's always a terrible side. It was almost like getting into a new relationship where everything's a crazy and a buzz but also mad. There was a downside and you have to remember that this is a crazy and competitive industry."

"To go from playing in a pub to being in front of 12 million and to go from 300 Twitter followers to 100,000 was remarkable. We went from zero to 100 in six weeks. We were quite lucky that a couple of us were business-minded. We weren't teens and we weren't too star struck. But it's so easy to get caught up in the madness of it. I'm just grateful that we've lived through that. These days, it's much better. We control everything and work together well. It's been two years as a four and we get on so well. The system works, it's like a well-oiled machine."

Though Collabro emerged from the world of TV, they are happiest when they're in theatres.

It's so easy to get caught up in the madness of it – it's better these days

Playing to a live audience gives them the greatest buzz of all, which is why they undertake such gargantuan tours.

"While TV is great, we love that, we also enjoy performing live, probably even more. That's why the next tour is so cool. Most bands don't last but we're already looking ahead towards our sixth year."

"We are four best friends who go on the road and when it's finished we go out for a drink. We all have our separate lives as well. When you first move to London, you don't have that life. But these days, we can take time away from the band which is super healthy."

"When people win these TV talent shows, a lot of them get wrapped in cotton wool so they last two minutes. They think they'll be the next Beyoncé and they stop working at it. They're not nice to people. It's all wrong."

"We are known for being overtly accommodating and easy to be around. We're very hard working too. When we won BGT, we sent all 60 production crew members chocolates and flowers and cards."

The band's low-key approach extends to their tour. "That's the way we work. You see some people's riders and they are crazy. For us, it's a bottle of red a bottle of white wine and some Haribos."

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Kevin and Karen Clifton



Dance show goes on after golden couple's split

THE show will go on for Strictly Come Dancing married couple Kevin and Karen Clifton despite their break up.

The dance duo will continue as professional partners in their spectacular touring show – Kevin and Karen Dance – which is at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday.

In a high-energy performance filled with heart-pounding choreography and sparkling costumes, Kevin and Karen will be dazzling audiences.

Backed by a supporting cast of dancers and a live 12-piece show band, Kevin and Karen's most famous routines from the top TV show will be brought to the stage – and the duo are looking forward to performing together.

Kevin said: "Privately we're not together right now but dance is the glue that holds us together."

"We're having a great time creating a brand new show filled with sassy glamour and edge-of-your-seat routines."

Karen and Kevin have appeared on Strictly Come Dancing since 2010 and 2011, respectively.

They first met as dancers on the stage show Burn The Floor and first appeared on Strictly when they were engaged.

The couple tied the knot in July 2015, with the marriage being the second for both dancers.

However, they have since gone their separate ways in their private lives – even though they're still performing live together.

Unheard Hancock as lost scripts found



Two lost Tony Hancock radio scripts from the 1950s are to be performed in Stourbridge later this year.

Billed as The Lost Hancocks: Vacant Lot, the production has a cast including impressionist James Hurn (BBC2's Dead Ringers) and Janice Connolly (AKA Mrs Barbara Nice).

In 1952 West Bromwich comedy writer Larry Stephens convinced the BBC to let him create a series for his friend and rising star Birmingham's Tony Hancock. Entitled Vacant Lot, the series focused on life in the faded fictional

seaside town of Churdley Bay, where the blundering, pompous Hancock aspires to better his lot.

Despite a cast of colourful characters (with Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan and Kenneth Connor all mooted for roles), Vacant Lot was never recorded and lay buried in the BBC archives until now.

Larry Stephens wrote much of Hancock's stage material as well as sketches for his ATV series, The Tony Hancock Show. Writing on his own and with such future legends as Spike Milligan and Eric Sykes, he penned material for Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe, Bernard Braden, Dickie Valentine, Jon Pertwee and

Arthur Askey. A key figure in the development and success of The Goon Show, he went on to work for TV hit The Army Game before dying suddenly in 1959, aged just 35.

The Lost Hancocks: Vacant Lot will be performed at Stourbridge Town Hall on September 19, as part of the build up to Birmingham Comedy Festival. The only other performance this year is at the British Library in London.

Tickets for the Stourbridge show are available online at www.boroughhalls.co.uk or by calling (01384) 812812.

Mini mania for Italian Job orchestral revival

One of Britain's most iconic films, The Italian Job, will return to the big screen at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sunday with an orchestra playing the famous Quincy Jones score live to the picture. The HD remastered version of the 1969 film starring Michael Caine, Noel Coward, Benny Hill, a young Robert Powell and some fabulous Minis, will be accompanied by a live orchestra for the first time. They will play the famous soundtrack by legendary composer and producer Quincy Jones, including the song On Days Like These during the opening sequence. Quincy Jones composed the soundtrack, including Getta Bloomin' Move On, usually referred to as The Self-Preservation Society. The movie also includes one of film history's most famous one-liners: "You're only supposed to blow the bloody doors off!"

Enjoy a Flat Pint with joker Jonny

Black Country comedy songsmith Jonny Cole will be on home ground when he lines up with The Flat Pint of Mild at Bilston's Robin 2 on Thursday, July 19. He is back with his full band line-up and is aiming to make fans move as much as laugh. Cole has taken the Midlands comedy scene by storm and has performed alongside such star comics as Ross Noble, Joe Lycett and Mark Watson. Cole is back with a new set of comedy songs and parodies, to leave fans rocking and rolling with laughter.



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A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

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The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

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The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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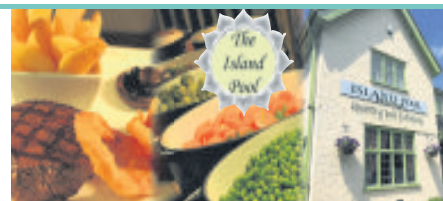
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CHOICE



Emma Willis

The Voice Kids (ITV, 8pm)
New series. Emma Willis returns with the junior version of the singing talent contest, giving youngsters between the ages of seven and 14 a chance to achieve stardom. The Voice UK's Will.i.am returns as one of the three coaches, with McFly's Danny Jones and pop star Pixie Lott occupying the other two spinning red chairs. Up for grabs this time is a £30,000 prize to contribute to the winning child's musical education, along with a family holiday to Disneyland Paris.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nagella. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Wimbledon 2018. Sue Barker presents live coverage.
6.50 **BBC News.**
7.00 **Regional Programme.**
7.10 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman put a selection of TV experts through their paces in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz show, asking them to team up with colleagues and contemporaries to provide the least-likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. The House That £100K Built presenter Kieran Long teams up with fellow architecture specialist Piers Taylor, while Homes Under the Hammer host Martin Roberts joins forces with Selling Houses' Amanda Lamb. Fifth Gear duo Vicki Butler-Henderson and Tiff Needell combine their wits, and weather forecasters John Hammond and Laura Tobin also compete. (R)
8.00 **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.40 **Casualty.** New paramedic Ruby (former EastEnders star Maddy Hill) is pushed to her limits on her first day with Iain and Sam. Alicia struggles to work with Eddie and her outbursts increase.
9.30 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes and the Brown family await the fruits of their fraud after faking Grandad's death to get a payout, but the insurance company starts to grow suspicious. (R)
10.00 **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.20 **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.** Jason Mohammad introduces action from the third place play-off, which took place at Saint Petersburg Stadium, as the semi-final losers did battle for the bronze medal.
10.50 **Today at Wimbledon.** Clare Balding presents highlights of the penultimate day's play.
11.50 **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.**
1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Marrying Mum and Dad. **7.00** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.30** The Engineers. (R) **8.00** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.30** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.00** Super Cute Animals. (R) **10.00** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **11.00** Wimbledon 2018. **12.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **1.00** Kew on a Plate. (R) **2.00** Garden Rescue. (R) **2.45** Film: An Ideal Husband. (1999) Oscar Wilde comedy drama, starring Cate Blanchett. **4.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.50** H Is for Hawk: A New Chapter – Natural World. (R)
6.50 **Wimbledon 2018.** Sue Barker presents further live coverage on day 12 at the All England Club, featuring action from the men's and ladies' doubles finals on Centre Court at SW19. Last year, the corresponding matches were completely different in terms of their competitiveness. In the men's match, the Polish-Brazilian pairing of Lukasz Kubot and Marcelo Melo overcame Austrian Oliver Marach and his Croatian partner Mate Pavic in five sets, eventually sealing a 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (7-2), 3-6, 13-11 victory. The ladies' match that followed was a far more one-sided affair, with second seeds Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina beating ninth seeds Chan Hao-ching and Monica Niculescu 6-0, 6-0.
9.00 **Reginald D Hunter's Songs of the Border.** Against the backdrop of President Trump's planned construction of a wall between the two countries, the comedian takes a 2,000-mile musical road trip along the US-Mexico border. He explores how romance and reality play out musically, where third-world Mexico meets first-world USA on "the broken road to the American Dream".
10.15 **Film: Mississippi Grind.** (2015) Premiere. Two gamblers go on a road trip alongside the Mississippi river to compete in a high-stakes poker game in New Orleans. Drama, starring Ben Mendelsohn and Ryan Reynolds.
11.55 **Golf: Scottish Open.** Eilidh Barbour presents highlights of the third round of the European Tour event at Gullane Golf Club in East Lothian, where Rafa Cabrera Bello entered as the defending champion.
12.55 Picnic at Hanging Rock. (R) **1.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Emplayable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's American Adventure. **9.55** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.20** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.20** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Coverage from Newmarket, York and Ascot. **2.30** FIFA World Cup 2018. Coverage of the third place play-off (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Catchphrase. (R)
6.00 **ITV News;** Weather.
6.15 **Regional Programme;** Weather.
6.30 **Japandemonium.** New series. A review of the best Japanese TV, showcasing some of the maddest and funniest moments ever broadcast.
7.00 **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts a star-studded version of the game show, as Jennie McAlpine, Jason Watkins and Ore Oduba try to "say what they see" in an effort to win £50,000 for charity.
8.00 **The Voice Kids.** New series. Emma Willis returns with the junior version of the talent contest, as Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott give youngsters aged from seven to 14 a chance at stardom.
9.35 **ITV News;** Weather.
9.55 **Film: The Bourne Supremacy.** (2004) The amnesiac assassin is living quietly in hiding, until his former employers come after him again and murder his girlfriend. A CIA operation has ended in disaster, and those responsible intend to clear their names by implicating Bourne. As the former secret agent tries to evade the hitmen on his trail, he also struggles to piece together the truth about his past. Action thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon.
11.55 **Stuck on You: The Football Sticker Story.** How four Italian brothers took a childhood obsession and turned it into a worldwide industry – and the British upstarts who took on the mighty Panini to beat them at their own game. (R)
12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Marathon: Transylvania Ultra. **6.30** Mobil 1: The Grid. **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** The King of Queens. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Great Canal Journeys: India.** The first of two programmes in which Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore India by canal boat. The trip begins in Kerala, a region of palm-fringed lakes, rivers and British-built canals which has had a thriving spice trade for thousands of years. They explore a boat built by a local ruler and make offerings at a temple, while Pru learns a traditional dance. (R)
8.00 **Film: Star Trek: Into Darkness.** (2013) Premiere. Captain Kirk and the crew of the starship Enterprise are sent on a clandestine mission into enemy territory to track down the rogue starfleet agent behind a terrorist attack on Earth. However, the assignment brings to light a hidden threat from within their own organisation. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto and Benedict Cumberbatch.
10.35 **Film: Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials.** (2015) Premiere. A group of children who escaped from a mysterious labyrinth journey through a dangerous wasteland. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Dylan O'Brien and Kaya Scodelario.
1.00 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. A hotel in Minnesota where staff are on the brink of revolt. (R) **1.50** The Big Narstie Show. The grime MC presents an alternative entertainment show. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Marnie asks Yasmine for her help with Alfie, and Fran sends Nancy a note asking her to meet her. Meanwhile, Farrah offers to help Grace out for the day at The Loft. (R) **4.50** My Kitchen Rules. Two friends and colleagues prepare a three course menu. (R) **5.45** Star Boot Sale. Richard Arnold tries to raise money for charity. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Access. **10.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Nightmare Tenants. Stum Landlords: Revisited. (R) **12.55** Bad Tenants. Rogue Landlords. (R) **2.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **2.55** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.55** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)
6.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Gareth and Craig investigate a possible case of mistaken identity in Shropshire, then in south Wales find themselves embroiled in a bitter dispute between two dog owners over a vet's bill. Steve and Phil have to evict a distraught young family from a former high street bank in west London, before paying a call on an elderly tailor in north London. (R)
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from the second game in the three-match series, which took place at Lord's. With commentary by Michael Vaughan, Geoff Boycott and Alison Mitchell.
8.00 **Les Dawson: A Life of Laughter.** Remembering the stand-up comedian, TV host, and celebrated piano player who died in June 1993 at the age of 62. His life story is revealed by delving into the archives and piecing together the most memorable footage he committed to celluloid, and as well as digging out great performances, chat show appearances, rare and long forgotten archive and home movie footage. There are also contributions from family, friends and colleagues, all combining to unpick the stories behind this legend of British entertainment – told in his own words and by those who knew him best. (R)
10.00 **Comedy Gold: Les Dawson and Friends.** A selection of clips featuring the much-loved comedian.
11.20 **French and Saunders: 30 Years of Laughs.** A celebration of the careers of Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders, in particular their work as a double-act. Contributors include Helen Lederer and Christopher Biggins. (R)
12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** The A-Team. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Earth's Greatest Spectacles **8.00** Wonders of the Moonson **9.00** Hidden **10.00** A Life on Screen – Stephen Fry **10.00** Roy Orbison: Love Hurts **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.30** Smashing Hits! The 80's Pop Map of Britain & Ireland **1.30** The Girl from Ipanema: Brazil, Bossa Nova and the Beach **2.30** Wonders of the Moonson **3.30** Top of the Pops: 1986 **4.00** Close
ITV2
12.35 Catchphrase **1.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.25** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **4.40** Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) **6.35** Film: The Mummy (1999) **7.40** FYI Daily **7.45** Film: The Mummy (1999) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Keith Lemon: Coming in America **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** CelebAbility **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
2.25 ITV Racing Live from Newmarket. Coverage of today's race meetings. **4.00** Foyle's War **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
3.00 Storage Wars: Texas **4.00** Monster Carp **5.00** When English Football Ruled Europe **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** World Series of Darts: Shanghai **12.00** Better Late Than Never **12.55** Football's Foreign Legion **1.55** Stuck on You: The Football Sticker Story **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 How I Met Your Mother **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** Young Sheldon **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Colombiana (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.20** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Rude Tube **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.50** Rude(ish) Tube
Film4
11.00 Vice Versa (1988) **1.00** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **2.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **5.00** Carry On Regardless (1961) **6.55** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **9.00** The Green Mile (1999) A prison guard amazed by the healing power and gentle nature of a man on death row comes to doubt his guilt. Supernatural drama, starring Tom Hanks and Michael Clarke Duncan. **12.00** Alien Resurrection (1997) **2.10** The Bay (2012) **3.55** Close

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CHOICE



Gary Lineker

MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (BBC1, 3.50pm)

Gary Lineker presents coverage of the final (Kick-off 4.00pm), which comes from Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, as the sport's most prestigious match takes place and the successors to Germany are crowned. The defending champions sensationally crashed out at the group stage this time around, finishing bottom of Group F following defeats to Mexico and South Korea, with their solitary victory over Sweden eventually counting for nothing. There were six previous World Cup winners who made it through to the knockout phase, however, as Uruguay, Spain, France, Argentina, Brazil and England all safely made it past their groups, though Spain and Argentina fell at the last-16 stage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.10** Songs of Praise. **12.45** BBC News. **Weather. 1.00** Wimbledon 2018. Sue Barker presents the build-up to the men's singles final. **1.50** Wimbledon 2018. Live coverage of the men's singles final. **3.00** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup Final Build Up. A look ahead to the final. **3.50** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Coverage of the final (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.35 BBC News.**6.50 Regional Programme.**

7.00 Countryfile. Sean Fletcher presents a special programme on Wales, spelling out what he loves so much about the country, including archive footage exploring the Seven Wonders of Wales. The mountains, hill farming, heritage, wildlife, castles, food and coastline of Wales are all examined, with the latter being of particular relevance as Sean journeys along Pembrokeshire's stretch of the Welsh Coastal Path.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Minehead Railway Station, where items brought in for the experts to value include a chair thought to have once belonged to Henry VIII, a 19th-century washing machine, a holiday camp dance trophy, a miniature of Napoleon and a wedding dress that has been worn down the aisle by seven brides.

9.00 Poldark. Sam convinces Drake to return from exile following his abandonment of Rosina, and Nathaniel Pearce's death reveals how he embroiled Pascoe's clients' funds. Ross finds Geoffrey Charles led astray by Monk Adderley and steers his nephew from trouble, while Drake returns to the village with Sam, who threatens retribution on any who attack his brother.

10.00 BBC News.**10.20 Regional Programme.**

10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Action from the final, which came from Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

11.00 Today at Wimbledon. Clare Balding and guests look back at highlights of the men's singles final.

12.00 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. 1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Wimbledon 2018. **12.30** Coast. (R) **1.25** RAF 100: Into the Blue. **1.55** Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. (R) **2.55** Wimbledon 2018. Continued live coverage from the All England Club.

8.00 Russia with Simon Reeve. The concluding leg of the adventurer's epic journey begins in Crimea, which is part of neighbouring Ukraine but was annexed by Russia in 2014. Simon meets the eccentric and fearless owner of a safari park who likes to get up close and personal with his pride of lions, then comes across a small hospital where he meets an inspirational doctor trying to protect his clinic from closure. Arriving in Moscow he meets a woman who was arrested for protesting against her flat being demolished, and finally arrives in St Petersburg, where he joins fighters at a martial arts club. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan. The comedian tells his preconceptions of Albania, guided on a whistlestop tour of the country by local TV presenter and journalist Erjona Rusi. Along the way, he tries to discover why Albania has remained a stubbornly unfashionable holiday destination, meeting those at the extremes of the country, from the rural farmers to the billionaire playboys who live in the cities in the company of supermodels. Last in the series.

10.00 Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate. Michael Flynn pleads guilty over lying to the FBI, and reporters dig deeper on the obstruction of justice case Robert Mueller might be building. Last in the series.

10.55 That's the Way, A-Ha, A-Ha, Joe Lycett. A performance from the comedian's award-winning live show, recorded at the Duchess Theatre in London's West End. (R)

11.55 Golf: Scottish Open. Highlights of the final round of the European Tour event at Gullane Golf Club in East Lothian, where Rafa Cabrera Bello entered as the defending champion.

12.55 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Japandemonium. (R) **9.55** The Voice Kids. (R) **11.25** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.25** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** You've Been Framed! Gold. (R) **2.00** The Chase. (R) **2.55** FIFA World Cup 2018: Final Build Up. A look ahead to the 21st staging of the showpiece match. **3.45** FIFA World Cup 2018. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the final (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul and the staff try an unconventional technique to calm down an over-excited mongrel, and a young German shepherd turns out to have hidden health problems. (R)

7.00 ITV News: Weather.

7.15 Regional Programme: Weather.

7.30 The Voice Kids. Emma Willis presents the junior version of the singing talent contest, giving youngsters between the ages of seven and 14 a chance to achieve stardom. The Voice UK's Will.I.am returns as one of the three coaches, with McFly's Danny Jones and pop star Pixie Lott occupying the other two spinning red chairs. Up for grabs this time is a £30,000 prize to contribute to the winning child's musical education, along with a family holiday to Disneyland Paris.

9.00 Unforgotten. New series. The body of a teenage girl who went missing at the turn of the millennium is found at a building site off the M1.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 Rising Damp Forever. Part one of two. Documentary about the classic sitcom, featuring contributions from creator Eric Chappell and star Don Warrington, who revisits the studio where the show was filmed. (R)

11.15 Rising Damp Forever. Part two of two. The crew of the sitcom and star Don Warrington are reunited, while director Joe McGrath and actor Christopher Strauli discuss making the movie version. (R)

12.15 The Big Fish Off. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Frasier. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Film: A Monster in Paris. (2011) Animated comedy, with the voice of Vanessa Paradis. **3.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.40** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.40** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. In this treehouse special, George rediscovers some of the best tiny builds to be found up in the treetops across the world, including a romantic retreat in Tuscany, a tree hotel in Sweden shaped like a UFO and a treehouse designed like a mirrored cube. Plus, a look back at the epic treehouse George and master carpenter Will Hardie built together in Kielder Forest Park.

8.00 Dunkirk: The Forgotten Heroes. The untold story of what happened after the Dunkirk evacuation, told by the men who were there and using recently declassified secret documents. Following the evacuation, tens of thousands of British troops were still left in France, fighting for their lives. The 51st Highland Division were ordered to fight on against the Hitler's war machine and now, almost 80 years later, the only remaining survivors of that Division tell their extraordinary story for the first time.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. The Waterfords embark on a diplomatic trip abroad, and Serena Joy faces the temptation of life outside Gilead. Luke and Moira grapple with survivor's guilt, while Offred seeks support from allies.

10.15 Film: Hell or High Water. (2016) Premiere. A divorced father and his ex-con older brother resort to a desperate scheme in order to save their family's ranch in West Texas. Drama, starring Jeff Bridges.

12.15 The Last Leg. A comic review of the past seven days. (R) **1.10** News Crack. (R) **1.35** Film: Wuthering Heights. (2011) Period drama, starring James Howson. **3.50** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.20** My Kitchen Rules. (R) **5.15** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.35** Star Boot Sale. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Only the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Pirata & Capitano. **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Hoogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** FIA Formula E. **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** Windsor Castle: The Queen's Favourite Home - Part One. (R) **4.10** Windsor Castle: The Queen's Favourite Home - Part Two. (R) **5.05** St Paul's: Secrets of the Great Cathedral. (R)

6.00 Westminster Abbey: Inside Britain's Most Famous Church. Cameras look inside the 11th-century church, that has been the final resting place for 17 monarchs and hosted 16 royal weddings, including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's. (R)

6.55 Titanic: Draining the Wreck. Using comprehensive mapping data, this programme follows the most dynamic and comprehensive look at Titanic to date, observing the creation of a 3D map of the ship's remains. (R)

7.55 Deep-Sea Super Predator. Documentary about a mysterious super-predator so large and aggressive that it can hunt down and devour a three-metre-long great white shark. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Wrath of the Titans. (2012) Ancient Greek demi-god Perseus must defeat a race of monsters that have escaped from the underworld. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Sam Worthington and Liam Neeson.

10.05 5 News Update.

10.10 Film: Wrath of the Titans. (2012) Concluded.

11.05 Film: The Legend of Hercules. (2014) Mythological adventure, starring Kellan Lutz.

12.05 Access. 12.10 Film: The Legend of Hercules. (2014) Concluded. **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** The A-Team. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Secret Knowledge: Stradivarius and Me **7.30** BBC Proms 2018 **10.00** Ben & James Versus the Arabian Desert **11.00** Six Wives with Lucy Worsley **12.00** The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers **1.00** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **2.00** Peter York's Hipster Handbook **3.00** Ben & James Versus the Arabian Desert **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.50 Take Me Out **1.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.00** Film: You've Got Mail (1998) **3.00** FYI Daily **3.05** Film: You've Got Mail (1998) **4.20** Film: Mamma Mia! Sing-along (2008) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30** Film: Mamma Mia! Sing-along (2008) **6.30** Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **7.30** FYI Daily **7.35** Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **1.35** Celebrity 2.20 Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

7.00 Victoria **9.00** Elton John: The Nation's Favourite Song **10.35** Wire in the Blood **12.30** Blue Murder **1.55** Liverpool 2 **1.50** Road to Avonlea **4.35** Judge Judy **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.00 Storage Wars: Texas **11.30** Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage nine of the Grand Tour event. **3.30** River Monsters **4.30** Storage Wars: Texas **5.55** The Chase Celebrity Special **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011) **11.35** Film: Harry Brown (2009) **12.35** FYI Daily **12.40** Film: Harry Brown (2009) **1.45** The Motorbike Show **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**

11.20 The Big Bang Theory: Big Moments **4.50** The Big Bang Theory **5.15** The Big Bang Theory: Big Moments **5.40** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **6.45** Film: Thor (2011) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.05** Gogglebox Australia **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.55** Gogglebox Australia **3.15** Hollywoods **Film4**

11.00 Toral Toral Toral (1970) **2.00** Back to the Future (1985) **4.20** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **6.30** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00** The Take (2016) **10.45** Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012) **12.50** The Place Beyond the Pines (2012) **3.40** Close

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MONDAY

Site Unseen: An Emma Fielding Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. An archaeologist and her team are embroiled in a murder investigation when a dead body is found at their dig site. Whodunit, starring Courtney Thorne-Smith. (2017)

TUESDAY

A Teacher's Obsession, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A lacrosse star is kicked off the team until she can improve her grades, leading to a new teacher taking a disturbing interest in her. Thriller, starring Molly Hagan. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2015)

WEDNESDAY

Mama, Channel 4, 1am
A man takes in his two nieces, who have been left to fend for themselves for years in a forest after their parents' deaths. He and his girlfriend try to give the almost animalistic children a normal life, unaware that a supernatural force that looked after the girls in the wild has followed them home. Horror, starring Jessica Chastain and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau. (2013)



Crank, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY

Two Wrongs, Channel 5, 3.20pm
Nurse and single mother Sarah struggles to balance her work and home life, but her worst nightmare is realised when her daughter Lauren is abducted while walking home alone from school and she faces a moral dilemma if she is to save her child. Thriller, starring Gillian Zinser, Ryan Blakely, Brooklyn Lax and Aidan Devine. (2015)

FRIDAY

Crank, ITV, 10.45pm
An assassin faces a race against time when he learns a rival has poisoned him with a drug that will kill him if his heart rate drops below a certain level. As he sets out to take revenge on his enemies, he has to resort to increasingly desperate acts to keep his adrenaline pumping. Action thriller, with Jason Statham, Amy Smart, Jose Pablo Cantillo, Efen Ramirez, Dwight Yoakam, Carlos Sanz, Reno Wilson and Jay Xcala. (2006)

Nadiya serves up a tasty treat with her favourite dishes

Believe it or not, there was a time when cooking shows just didn't matter. They were cosy time-fillers that propped up the schedules while we waited for the likes of Top of the Pops, Tomorrow's World and super soaps like Dallas and Dynasty. But then things changed. Yes, the humble cookery show was still cheap to make (a staple ingredient for any cash-conscious producer), but with the right person, or people doing their bit to cameras, it could be the stuff of TV gold.

Thanks to mavericks like Keith Floyd, who berated his producer and essentially directed the show himself inbetween glugs of wine, the nation realised cookery shows could be fun.

Yes, Delia Smith might be there like a stable rock with top cooking tips, but Floyd was a culinary rock star, who just happened to look like an eccentric professor.

Fast forward to 2018 and we have more cookery shows than we can shake a (chop) stick at. Every type

of series, with a vast array of larger-than-life presenters, who travel the world and carry out cooking sketches in exotic locations while we at home dream mournfully over beans on toast.

One of the greatest finds of recent years is of course Nadiya Hussain, the Great British Bake Off winner whose bright ideas, offbeat sense of humour and magnetic screen presence ensured her fanbase grew faster than a proving loaf with too much yeast.

In the past three years since she became a household name, the 33-year-old Leeds mum of three has fronted compelling travel show The Chronicles of Nadiya; co-hosted The Big Family Cooking Showdown; helped edit the BBC's Good Food magazine; written a weekly broadsheet column, and is now back on the box with this lip-smacking new series.

She'll be showing viewers how to create the perfect dishes to compliment any kind of day, and meets some of Britain's most inspiring home cooks along the way.

Nadiya begins by demonstrating recipes for family days out, including chai-spiced vermicelli, cheese biscuits with tomato jam, a filling samosa pie, as well as a prawn saffron biryani to come home to.

Though you can of course add plenty of butter and full-fat milk to certain dishes, Nadiya is well aware that most of us are fighting the battle of the bulge, so she offers lighter alternatives.

Her quest to find the best homemade pasty in Britain takes her to Cornwall, and she also visits a rapeseed-oil farm in Northampton.

"For me, food is all about family, and those special moments when we all come together over a mouthwatering meal," explains Nadiya.

"I want to share some of my yummy family favourites. Dishes for every kind of day. I'm also going to travel the country, meeting inspirational home cooks who go the extra mile to make scrumptious products that most of us buy in the shops."



Nadiya's Family Favourites, Monday, BBC2, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The Island That Saved My Life BBC1, 7.30pm

Suffering from depression and with an accompanying trait of shyness, 23-year-old Sarah Moore found her life in Edinburgh tough. She found a solution, however - even though it meant leaving her family, she moved to the remote Orcadian island of North Ronaldsay, which boasts a population of around 50. There, she took up several jobs, and started to build a new life for herself; one which suited her down to the ground. Now, much happier in the beautiful surroundings of the Orkney Isles, she feels much more a member of the community - and, ironically, has a far more active social life than she did in the Scottish capital. This documentary, part of BBC One's Our Lives strand, tells her remarkable story.

TUESDAY

Inside the Factory BBC2, 8pm

For millions of us, getting through the day without a coffee or three is an unthinkable prospect, but what goes into making the stuff? In the first of a new run, Gregg Wallace explores an enormous Derbyshire coffee factory, where they produce 175,000 jars a day. He follows the production of freeze-dried

instant coffee, from the arrival of 27 tonnes of Brazilian green coffee beans right through to dispatch. Meanwhile, Cherry Healey learns about the drink's chemistry and Ruth Goodman investigates its origins, visiting the site of the UK's first coffee house which sprang up in a London churchyard in 1652.

WEDNESDAY

Animals Behaving Badly BBC1, 8pm

A new three-part series from the BBC - and let's face it, who does animal docs better? - focuses on the science behind animal behaviour. While it may have a fun and often adorable veneer, it also sneaks in a bit of science along the way. The first episode focuses on mating, and frankly some of these critters have habits which we may find distasteful to say the least. Presenter Liz Bonnin reveals how mongoose are apt to start turf wars simply to create a distraction in order to sneak in and mate; macaques meanwhile will actually kidnap babies in order to curry favour with rivals. Meanwhile, in the American plains, she finds out why

promiscuity might be the key to healthy offspring - in prairie dogs, at least.

THURSDAY

George Clarke's Old House, New Home Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Architect George Clarke returns to unlock the potential of old houses. He meets teachers Simon and Sofie, whose 1930s Liverpool semi has lost its way thanks to a small kitchen squeezed into what would have been the wash house and some dodgy interior design choices made by the previous owner. Can he come up with a structural redesign and interior scheme with just £15,000? He also visits a medieval farmhouse in Kent that's like a perfectly preserved time capsule and needs an upgrade suitable for a young and rapidly growing family.



Our Shirley Valentine Summer, Thursday, ITV, 9.30pm

Our Shirley Valentine Summer ITV, 9.30pm

The play (and subsequent movie) Shirley Valentine told the story of a bored housewife who found a new lease of life when she went to Greece on holiday. But could a trip to the Greek islands work have a similar effect on a group of female celebrities who feel they have reached a crossroads in their own lives? Melinda Messenger, Sian Lloyd, Nancy Dell'Olio, Aggie MacKenzie, Ninia Benjamin, Lizzie Cundy, Annabel Giles, and Ingrid Tarrant are all single and all have a personal goal in mind, whether it's boosting their confidence, getting over a marriage breakdown or finding a new career. Some of them are also hoping to find love. But can they discover what they are looking for in the Greek islands - and will the fact that they all want to try something new bond them as they find themselves living under the same roof?

FRIDAY

Golf: The Open Championship Highlights BBC2, 8pm

Eilidh Barbour presents action from the second day of the prestigious event, which takes place at Carnoustie Golf Links in Angus, Scotland, as the players aimed to make the cut ahead of the weekend's play.

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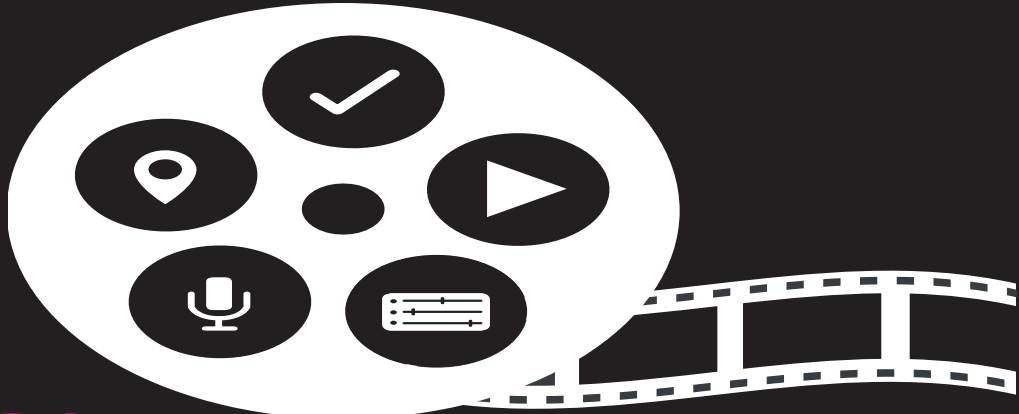
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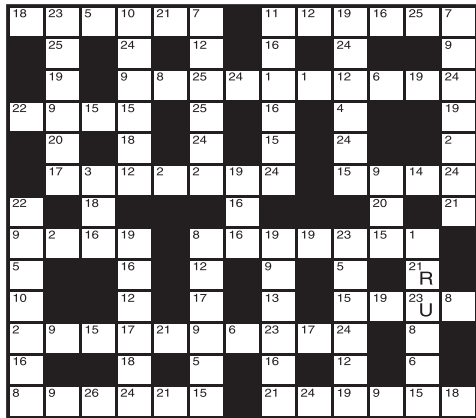
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
X	W	S	C	D	V	Q	N	O	F	Y	J	G	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
H	L	I	B	Z	T	R	K	M	P	E	A	U	

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

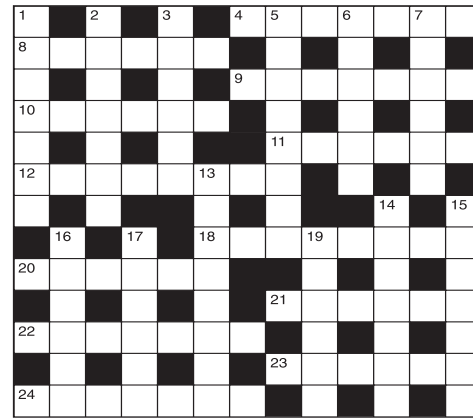
Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. On air journey, youth leader becomes giddy (7)
8. Sport in the packaging department? (6)
9. To carve ham (7)
10. Indicates letters used in incantations (6)
11. Give ear to silent reform (6)
12. Letter used in the manner of a buccaneer (8)
18. Defer mail open to change (8)
20. Producer of electricity from Monday (6)
21. Trivial insult (6)
22. Thus, being lawful, make an appeal (7)
23. Be relevant to animal appearing (4,2)
24. Stuck in this place with a theologian around (7)

Down

1. Lamb, say, is extremely bad (7)
2. Right in leaving out selected passage (7)
3. Horn learnt badly (6)
5. Cut down on affection, receiving none at all (8)
6. Has rig-out which is showy (6)
7. Marked correct time? (6)
13. Suitable to place in monkey (8)
14. Fake produced by a blacksmith? (7)
15. Giving permission for hiring (7)
16. Verbal saying? (6)
17. Salty South African class of goods (6)
19. Agriculturalist at the helm? (6)



Quick Clues:

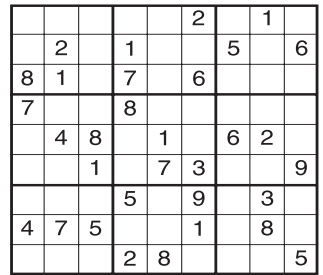
Across

4. Relief (7)
8. Eatable (6)
9. Competent (7)
10. Annul (6)
11. Sting (6)
12. Courageous (8)
18. Upset (8)
20. Seemly (6)
21. Treat (6)
22. Chief city (7)
23. Glimpse (6)
24. Under (7)

Down

1. Chorus (7)
2. Contend (7)
3. Gratify (6)
5. Rouse (8)
6. Courteous (6)
7. Threefold (6)
13. Lengthen (8)
14. Sweet dish (7)
15. Whole number (7)
16. Ten years (6)
17. Contrivance (6)
19. Indeed (6)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	3	4	8	6	9	2	1
8	4	9	3	1	2	6	5	7
6	2	1	9	5	7	4	8	3
4	6	2	1	3	9	5	7	8
9	1	5	6	7	8	3	4	2
3	8	7	2	4	5	1	6	9
7	9	4	8	6	3	2	1	5
2	5	6	7	9	1	8	3	4
1	3	8	5	2	4	7	9	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Good spirits; 9 Eat; 10 Allotment; 11 Press; 13 Cynical; 14 Needle; 16 Senate; 18 Opulent; 19 Lathe; 20 China clay; 21 Act; 22 Leading role. Down: 2 Out; 3 Draws; 4 Palace; 5 Retinue; 6 Trenchant; 7 Keep in touch; 8 At all events; 12 Executive; 15 Leeward; 17 Stolen; 19 Layer; 21 Awl. QUICK - Across: 1 Domesticity; 9 And; 10 Insensate; 11 Lapse; 13 Leaders; 14 Braise; 16 Animal; 18 Lineage; 19 Minus; 20 Trickster; 21 All; 22 Celebration. Down: 2 Odd; 3 Elite; 4 Tussle; 5 Contain; 6 Tradesman; 7 Fallibility; 8 Senselessly; 12 Plaintive; 15 Shackles; 17 Better; 19 Merit; 21 Aho.

Quiz

1. Who is Frank Richards' most famous creation?
2. With which disease is oncology concerned?
3. Which unit of distance is 1.852 km long?
4. Who wrote the foreword for the surprise best-seller The Catechism?
5. Which Australian PM was nicknamed 'the Prefect'?
6. In which country is the IJsselmeer lake?
7. Which violinist was often accompanied by his sister Hephzibah?
8. Who wrote The Bostonians?
9. Who plays Gilderoy Lockhart in the movie Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets?
10. In which county is the seaside resort Herne Bay?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Elbrus; 2 Science fiction; 3 Order of the

Garter; 4 Sherry; 5 Lead; 6 Diana Rigg;

7 Benjamin; 8 Mary Pierce; 9 Indian; 10 FBI.

Niner: CONSTABLE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1899
2675
163947

gives a disturbance,
gives a second disturbance,
gives a disaster.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Red Lion the mane attraction

Being new in town means it's not always easy to show initiative when it comes to going out. You don't know the area and have no knowledge of any decent places to eat or drink out at.

But it was clear that a country pub was to be the destination on a summer's evening.

An escape from the city hell on a hot day in the office.

The Red Lion at Bradley is a pretty little pub in a proper, picturesque English setting. The white-washed walls of the 17th century building and perfect flower borders look totally in character for its village setting.

Driving up to the pub it was easy to feel all the stresses and strains of the day slip away and be replaced with calm and tranquillity.

SWIFTLY

When Mr and I wandered in to the pub, it caught us a little off guard as all eyes appeared to be on the strangers from another land.

As we were the first in for dinner, it meant we got our pick of the tables and The Husband – who is a little particular about where we sit – made a beeline for the table I had my eyes on. A window seat for two tucked away from other diners. We did have to shuffle the table, however, as Husband had parked himself right under a speaker.

The waitress was very smiley and gave us menus to deliberate over and took a drinks order, a Birra Moretti and Pinot Grigio. They arrived with a bottle of chilled water, the order was taken and we relaxed into our peaceful surrounds before our starters. I'd gone for the soup of the day – French onion with a crusty roll and he fancied the warm garlic and rosemary focaccia with aged balsamic, olive oil with the idea of sharing. The



The Red Lion pub in Bradley, near Stafford

soup was amazing, full of oniony flavour with gorgeous chunks of the veg thickening up the hearty liquid. The best bit was the huge French bread crouton covered in melted cheese floating on top. There was no crusty roll but we did have the bread starter, a large portion of four pieces of focaccia full of rosemary. The olive oil and balsamic vinegar were of a high quality and the herby bread a great complement to the oil and vinegar mix.

Nothing was left of the starters and we sat back waiting for them to settle as we admired the serene surroundings. By the time our mains arrived the dining

room had begun to fill up a little. I'd gone for a pub classic – fish and chips – but instead of the usual cod it was battered haddock with chips, tartare sauce and minted mushy peas, which ordinarily I would not be keen on, but these were delicious.

The chicken was going down just as well over the other side of the table and, I am assured, the whole meal was rated as 'top drawer'.

I was defeated and couldn't finish it all. His plate was cleared and our bellies were happily full.

Husband was keen to sample a dessert but I was too

stuffed to even contemplate such a thing. Sticky toffee pudding with ginger ice cream was his choice. But with two spoons, so I could tuck in too. It was well worth finding the tiny bit of room my tummy had left. I'm pretty sure I ended up devouring the majority of it too.

Our bill came to £53.20 with no complaints and such lovely, friendly service.

It's a place we'd happily return to. Out of the way, quiet and with satisfying food, The Red Lion is surely the mane attraction in the pretty village of Bradley.

LISA HARRISON



Fish and chips with minted mushy peas

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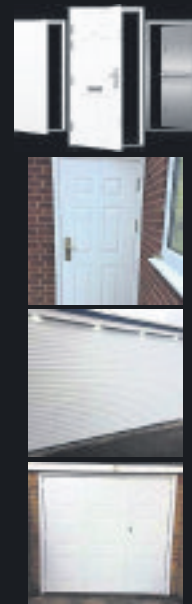
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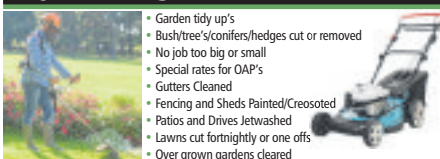
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SHED RE-FELTS • FENCE PAINTING • TREE TOPPING • HEDGE CUTTING • SLABBING

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with this advert
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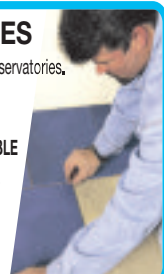
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Funeral Directors
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1
Family

Elderly & Disabled

WORLD OF MOBILITY
Stourbridge's longest established
Family Run Mobility Store
Brettell Lane, Amblecote,
Stourbridge DY8 4BS. Open Mon-Sat.
01384 378252

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Very good condition.
£500.
01384 262523.
SHOWER CHAIR and commode.
Never been used.
£60.
0777 2795042.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2
Leisure Time

Caravans Wanted

CARAVAN WANTED
CASH PAYED ON COLLECTION. ASAP.
CARAVAN WANTED CALL ME ON 07717090817

Caravans/Motorhomes

TWIN UNIT NEAR BEWDLEY

11 months park sited at button oak on bus route own driveway and garden fully furnished
£80,000

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35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433.

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Holiday Home for sale -2017
Willerby Wrekin

BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.
Call Ron or Margaret
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www.sevenoakspark.co.uk

BARGAIN

COMPASS VENTURE 544
2010, 4-berth.
Fixed bed. Sunroof.
All mod cons.
Awning plus winter cover.
Many extras.
Excellent condition.
£6,600.
01299 253263.

BARGAIN

holidays

Self Catering Holidays

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET sleeps 4 - 6. On 4* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. Sep. Oct. £130pw, July, £180pw, school Holidays £385pw, 07974 226928.

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Self Catering Holiday Apartments
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Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
"Weeks from £209 per couple"
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Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly inns
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www.meadowholidays.com

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By appointment **07437 569187**

what's on

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ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR
CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AW
Friday July 13th
8:30 AM - 3 PM
07783 680 627
ADMISSION £1

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 16th May
07957 399964

Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community Centre, DY7 6ER, inc post-cards. **Sunday 15th July.** Next Antique Fairs 5th Aug. 19th Aug. Est 1979, Waverley, Refreshments available. 0121 550 4381.

3
Home & Services

Furniture

ITALIAN LEATHER 3 seater settee, good condition. £100. 01562 882784.
LA-Z-BOY LUXURY lift leather power recliner. One year old. No longer needed. Cost £1,430. Sell £450. 07835 405842.

In Your Garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: **01922 720270**
We also supply sleepers and decking

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.
HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

ALL BRASS AND COPPER ornaments, all conditions, Marmot steam engines and trains, old Scalextric. 01902 745598.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED

NINTENDO SEGA
OLD GAMES AND CONSOLES

Nintendo Sega, Atari, Commodore, etc.

Old toys, Starwars, He-Man, Wrestlers, Transformers, etc. Comics, graphic novels, football shirts.

Cash Paid.

07866 691968.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

Free Ads
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
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A AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST

Digital Aerials Fitted Sky & CCTV Cameras

Free Quotes. 7 days
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"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!

Call: **0121 601 9791**

Fencing

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael-Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
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Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
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83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

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Express & Star

LANDSCAPE GARDENERS!

CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)

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claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

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READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

Plastering

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Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

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LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

GOAL
THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY
Part of Express & Star Ltd Express & Star

Service

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!



"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

4
Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

Commercial Premises Sale / Let

Leasehold / Freehold

- Newsagents / Printing Business with potential to increase Convenience sales
- Highly profitable operation in West Midlands
- Priced to sell at £75,000 for the business, plus S.A.V
- All offers will be considered

Contact 07811 113027.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

CLAREGATE a furnished self contained studio flatlet, for single working mature person, inc CH, TV, electricity, secure parking, £350pcm. 07957 595840 no DSS.

SMALL FLAT fully equipped, refurbished, suit mature male. £95pw + some services. 07715 603557.

TWO BED FLATS—Merridale Rd, Rosebury St. CH, Good standard. 0771 8896058.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

Courses



We provide Training in:
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (GSA)
Call 01299 879 015
Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.com

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 September & 3-4 December
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August **TELFORD:** 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 17-18 November

Learn how to take blood ...
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
Introduction to Phlebotomy

- TWO DAY COURSE - Nationally Recognised
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
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01902 317878 **Classified Ads**

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Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call 0121 663 1403
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVT-i TR
2012, 5dr, one owner, fish, 46k, air con, multimedia system, sat nav, reverse cam.
£6,150 o.n.o.
07813 675526

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL CORSA
1.2
5 door.
2007 reg.
43,000 miles only.
Central locking. PAS. CD.
E/W. E/M. Full MoT.
£1,695.
077794 55916.

Cars Over £1500



FORD FOCUS TITANIUM TDCi
5-dr, 1.6 speed manual, 2012 (62), new timing belt kit and dual mass clutch / flywheel, full service history (130K), immaculate.
£3,995
07970 705466.

MUST BE SEEN

MAZDA MX5 1.6
2004, blue/silver, 81,000 miles, MoT, PAS, electric windows, ABS, extras, excellent condition.
£2,300 ono
07747 312237.

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN

KIA CARENS CRDi LX
Black. 56 reg.
33k miles. FSH.
Four new tyres. Tow bar.
£750.
01384 273855.



VW POLO 1.2 E
3 door hatchback.
2004. Red. Petrol. Manual.
MoT May 19.
119,000 miles.
Good condition.
Great first car.
£950 ono.
07871 521216/01562 911634.

BARGAIN

MINI 1
04, MoT till March 19, four new tyres, fully serviced, new discs, gear box a little stiff.

Quick sale

First £900 ono.

07476 013160.



MINI ONE
Black with white bonnet stripes, 04 reg, 1.6 petrol, MoT March 2019, 92k miles, lady owner.
£1,100 ono.
07586 347777.

Classic Cars

WANTED

Storage for 13 classic cars.

Please call

01902 238002.

07734 412062

Motorbikes

KAWASAKI GPZ 500S 1995, 18,000 miles. £900 ono.
07871 246034

Scrap Vehicles

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.



mainline Salvage & Recovery
• SCRAP CARS WANTED
• FREE COLLECTION
• TOP PRICES PAID
Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
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1000's of vehicle parts in stock
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07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

spares & accessories

Spares/Parts

MG/TF MOHAIR roof kit, glass window, still boxed £175. Tonneau cover, as new £50. Aluminium water pipes, new £40. 01384 345367.

Vehicles Wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 319694 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

Personal



ATTENTION LADIES 40-60
Please don't pass this advert by, read on and see am genuine guy.

Slim 55, attractive, caring, romantic too, looking for genuine lady just like you.
Box Number P21250, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

YOUNG AT HEART MALE

60's
WLTM nice lady.
Box Number P21260
Express and Star
Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

REACH CUSTOMERS ON THE MOVE

Advertise your business on the NEW LOOK Express & Star website
www.expressandstar.com

To find out how you can benefit call MNA Digital on 01902 319730



The ASA regulates ads on websites.

#socialmediatoo

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority

New turbocharged engine joins the Kia Picanto range

By James Parker

Kia has now added a turbocharged engine to its Picanto line-up, completing the range which was updated in 2017. The new 1.0-litre powerplant produces 99bhp and 171Nm of torque — making it the most powerful Picanto to date.

The new engine is available as an upgrade for cars in GT-Line and GT-Line S trims, and sits above the existing naturally aspirated engines — a 1.0-litre three-cylinder and 1.25-litre four-cylinder with 67bhp and 84bhp respectively.

The new engine is capable of 0-60mph in 9.8 seconds and has a top speed of 112mph. That's just on par with the 89bhp Volkswagen up! TSI, but the 109bhp Renault Twingo GT tops it by a few tenths. The Picanto is capable of returning impressive fuel economy figures though — with a combined figure of 55.4mpg and CO2 emissions of 117g/km. It's fully compliant with Euro 6d emissions regulations, too.

This fresh unit does come at a price, as it's only available on the top-end GT-Line and GT-Line S trims. Both add dynamic details to the Picanto, including a sports body kit, red highlights on the grille, air intakes and side sills, a rear diffuser and twin exhaust pipes.

S models add in extra luxury in the form of an electric sunroof, climate control, heated front seats, a wireless phone charger and sat-nav with TomTom connected services.



The new engine is only available as an upgrade

In the best Kia tradition, the Picanto comes with an industry-leading seven-year warranty, compared with just three years on most rivals.

The GT-Line model equipped with the new engine starts at £13,320, while GT-Line S models come in from £14,720. The challenge for the Picanto is that this price puts it in line with the significantly more powerful Volkswagen up! GTI, which starts from £13,255.

● Kia Motors (UK) Ltd. has been awarded 'Company of the Last 30 Years' at the annual Auto Express New Car Awards. This is a special accolade, part of a group of awards celebrating not only the best in the industry, but also Auto Express' 30th anniversary.

Since arriving in the UK in 1991, with one model in the line-up, Kia has evolved to become one of the biggest-selling automotive brands in the UK, offering a line-up of 21 models available across its 192-strong dealer network. With the recent launch of the ground-breaking all-new Stinger, the fastest-accelerating model in Kia's history as well as an upcoming update to the UK and global best-seller, the Sportage, perceptions of the Kia brand has been altered to many.

Collecting the award, Paul Philpott, president and CEO of Kia Motors (UK) Ltd, said: "It is an honour to be presented with this award — it is a real testament to how far the brand has come since arriving in the UK. We are very proud of our product line-up and are looking forward to the brand's continued growth and even more exciting things to come in the future."

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief at Auto Express, commented: "In less than 30 years, Kia's product range has grown from the cheap and cheerful Pride supermini, sold through an importer, to encompass fabulous SUVs, and a sports saloon that has rattled the premium establishment. Owners love their Kias: two featured in the top ten models in this year's Driver Power survey, and the Niro was rated best small SUV to own."

Kia was also recognised in three additional categories, with Picanto being commended in the City Car of the Year category. Making it onto the shortlist nominations was the Sorento for Large SUV of the Year and the all-new Stinger, Kia's first gran turismo, for Compact Executive Car of the Year.



This unit is only available on the top-end GT-Line and GT-Line S trims

Oak Garage .co.uk

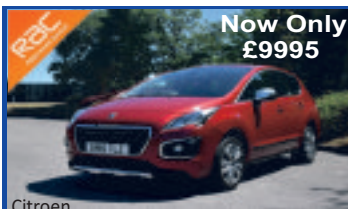
Your Local RAC Approved Dealer



Only 200 Yards From Merry Hill Shopping Centre:

Low Mileage

15	Citroen C4 Picasso Spec Edit 1.6 e-HDi Selec Blue Only 1900 Miles	£11,495
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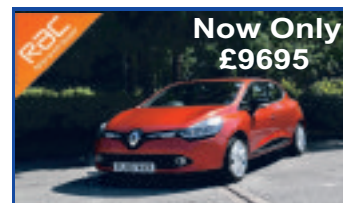
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Practical with surprising dose of style

By Ryan Hiron

The van-turned-MPV has been a mainstay in the market for a number of years now – if one that has been dwindling for a while.

The PSA Group – consisting of Peugeot, Citroen and now Opel/Vauxhall – has been right at the forefront of this particular game for some time with the big-selling Peugeot Partner Tepee and Citroen Berlingo twins, and it's not giving up the ghost just yet. A new wave of these machines is on the horizon, and this is the first – the Peugeot Rifter.

With the ever-growing presence of SUVs though, does buying a van-based MPV still make sense in 2018?

Although the concept of a van-MPV is nothing new, the Rifter itself is a pretty fresh machine. In fact, it's a new name – replacing the old Partner Tepee in the range and distancing itself from the Partner van it's based on.

It's got a new look as well – taking on Peugeot's most recent corporate design. Inside the cabin, the firm's stylish i-Cockpit cabin also makes an appearance.

As for engine options, there's a choice of powertrains plucked from the rest of PSA's range – namely PureTech 110 and 130 petrol engines, along with BlueHDi diesels in 75, 100 and 130 guises.

We took the helm of a Rifter powered by the BlueHDi 130 unit – a 1.5-litre engine delivering 128bhp and 221Nm of torque, here paired up to an eight-speed automatic gearbox. No official word on 0-60mph times.

As for efficiency, Peugeot claims 65.7mpg is possible on the combined cycle with CO2 emissions of 114g/km.

Don't expect it to be the last word in



There's a 775-litre load capacity

performance, but the diesel engine provides ample power to cart around the Rifter without ever feeling asthmatic. Gear changes from the automatic 'box also feel seamless and, despite the van roots, there's little noise from the engine itself – allowing for a relaxing ride.

The Peugeot Rifter was never destined to be a serious driver's car, but the experience behind the wheel is a little less than stellar – its van roots shine through all too well.

Steering falls on the light side yet the Rifter requires a ton of input at low speed to navigate around relatively tight turns, while at higher speeds body roll is incredibly present – perhaps to be expected for such a tall machine.

Style isn't the name of the game in this market segment, but the Rifter is a pretty good-looking thing in its own right. The introduction of Peugeot's corporate style pays off here – with the angular language sitting well on the van dimensions.

Compared with SUVs – even those from



Style isn't the name of the game in this market segment, but the Rifter is a pretty good-looking thing in its own right

Peugeot – it's not a fashion icon but does manage to pack genuine practicality into a good-looking package.

Step into the driver's seat and you'll be greeted by the firm's i-Cockpit cabin which is slowly but surely taking over its entire range. It brings a high-positioned instrument cluster, eight-inch touchscreen infotainment system (on Allure and higher models) along with a compact, race car-esque steering wheel to create an encapsulated feel.

Looking for pure practicality? We're glad

to report the Rifter offers tons of that. The three rear seats all feature Isofix mounting points meaning all the kids can come along for the ride in child seats, while a 775-litre load capacity with all seats in place means you can fit more than enough for a family week away in the back with ease. Still not enough? A seven-seat version will be landing in the UK in 2019.

Pricing for the full range has yet to be confirmed, but the GT-Line BlueHDi 130 as tested will be available from £24,220. For the money, equipment on offer includes keyless

start, automatic dual-zone climate control, satellite navigation and tons of gloss black exterior highlights to bring a stylish edge – on top of LED daytime running lights, an eight-inch infotainment system with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto support amongst others.

The Rifter manages to bring a hint of style to a segment often not associated with it, while retaining the practicality and daily usability MPV buyers will be hoping to expect – and although it may struggle to hide its roots as a van, we can forgive that.

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A Wolverhampton pupil jumps over the hurdle during a blindfold challenge



Determination on the faces of the pupils as they race for the finishing line



Sandwell against Walsall in one of the many football matches



A gymnast shows off her skill in the opening ceremony

Game on as 1,000 pupils enjoy sporting festival

IT was game on as more than 1,000 youngsters went to a Black Country sports day. The competition was fierce as more than 80 schools from across the region went head-to-head.

The seventh annual Black Country School Games Summer Festival was held at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus.

Teams of young athletes from Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall battled it out in a bid to be crowned the Black Country champions and win the Joel Richards Black Country Schools Games Festival Cup.

Ian Carey, director of Active Black Country who organised the event, said: "School Games is an annual festival where we seek to bring all schools across the region together in a celebration of activity, participation and competition.

"We have got over 250 young volunteers gaining brilliant experience and skills that will stand them in good stead in terms of school but also in their future life.

Introduce

"The young people they drive the menu of sport themselves – it is led by them. I think the children are our future and unfortunately the region suffers from some of the highest levels of childhood obesity. I think this is a great way to bring children together and introduce them to activity.

"It is a great way to introduce them to sport and physical activity on a level playing field that tries to meet the needs of all young people.

"We are just aiming for people to be able to play sport and be physically active. I believe it is a human right that people should have to play sport or be physically active."

Young people took part in a range of activities – including sports hall athletics, multi skills, rounders, rugby, cricket, dodgeball, tri-golf, multi skills, football and duathlon.

One of those taking part, Tia Maisur, aged eight, from Lanesfield Primary School in Wolverhampton, said: "We have been doing golf and we had to get the balls in the hole. It is my first time at the festival. I think it is really good."

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by Luke Bartlett

"It's a great way to introduce them to sport and physical activity on a level playing field that tries to meet the needs of all young people"

Another, Jack Bickley, aged seven, from Abbey Infant School in Smethwick, said: "It was really good because we got to do a lot of activities and try different sports out."

For Andrew Marlowe, physical education teacher at The Jane Lane School in Walsall, bringing his team of boys to take their chances at going for gold in the football was 'second to none'.

He said: "You have to qualify for The Black Country Games so it is quite prestigious. Just to get here all of the schools have done well. Whilst we are here there is of course going to be an eventual winner but there is a lot of talent on show.

"We have been a few times. We are lucky enough that we have a good batch of lads every key stage and every year we do qualify for it, but it is important for them to come here, to meet new people and new schools.

"It is a confidence thing as well, we all want to win but just for them to take part and see the smiles on their faces is second to none."

It was a good showing for Sandwell at the games – who among other notable victories saw Bristnall Hall take the first place for football and Uplands Manor take the first place for golf.

But the overall award went back into the hands of the Wolverhampton students for the second year running – who won the multi skills category with St Andrews and rounders with Wolverhampton Girls High.

They won the Joel Richards Black Country Schools Games Festival Cup – which was renamed two years

ago to honour the former Wood Green Academy pupil after he lost his life in the Tunisia terror attack of 2015. Remembering the teenager is something that his former headteacher James Topham says is something the school wanted to do.

Mr Topham said: "Joel was a volunteer, he helped out at these games, he did thousands and thousands of hours of volunteering for sports, he was a real ambassador for sport.

"He absolutely loved this event. The tragic circumstances in Tunisia where he lost his life, as a school because Joel was a former pupil of Wood Green Academy, we wanted to do something to remember him.

"At that time I was chair of the local organising committee and as Joel had done so much for the Black Country in terms of sport, we wanted to be able to remember him.

"We decided on the Joel Richards Trophy, which we never had before, and also having Smile For Joel as the official charity of the games.

"I'm really pleased they are taking this charity on board. Joel was selfless, he would actively go out of his way to help people, not just in the games but as a football referee.

"Had he not lost his life in that terrorist attack, no doubt he would still be giving back to his community. We have lost that, and I hope that having him remembered and his life inspires other young people to get involved."



Well protected for the fencing challenge

Future looking bright for Beacon League

THE future for one local football league looks bright after it announced an increase in club membership for the forthcoming campaign, writes Dave McLean.

Not only have the Beacon Sunday Football League (BSFL) accepted five new teams so far – it is still not too late to join the ranks – the afternoon set-up have confirmed the introduction of a new match-day initiative.

From the start of the new league season on September 2, member clubs have adopted the use of roll-on/roll-off substitutions for all competitions. Under the new rule, teams will be allowed to name five substitutes and use them at anytime in a game.

In another new move the BSFL will kick off the season with two separate sections. Two titles will be up for grabs, firstly in the established Beacon Championship, the other in a new Development division, ideal for newly-formed teams and those just entering 'open age' football. It is also hoped to introduce a new over-30s Seniors section.

Trampolining event is set to tumble in

THE 2018 Trampoline, Tumbling & DMT British Championships springs into action at Arena Birmingham in September. This year the gymnasts gained 13 major medals in the recent European Championships.

Spectators could witness the return of history-making trampoline Olympic Silver Medallist Bryony Page on home soil, as she takes on stiff competition from world team bronze medallists Laura Gallagher and Kat Driscoll.

Nathan Bailey and Luke Strong will go head to head for the men's senior trampoline crown during the event on September 22 and 23. The senior tumbling teams led by 2018 European champion Lucie Colebeck, and her teammates Yasmin Taite, Kristof Willerton, Greg Townley and Elliott Browne will show off their power and skill.

DMT gymnasts will bring their explosive power and high-flying stunts in a bid for the British titles. The newly-crowned Junior European team champions and individual senior gold medallist Kirsty Way will be looking to edge out the competition.

Memorial match for ex academy coach JP

FORMER Wolves academy coach John Perkins is to be honoured with a special memorial game tomorrow (Friday).

Perkins (aka JP) worked at Molineux from 2000-2009 as assistant academy manager and under-18s coach and was in charge when Wolves' talented youngsters reached the semi-finals of the FA Youth Cup in 2005.

Wolves U23s will play at Hinckley's Leicester Road FC (who play in the Midland Football League), kick off 7.30pm for The John Perkins Memorial Trophy. The match has been organised by Leicester Road FC manager Neil Lyne, who as a young semi-pro player with Leicester United also signed for Nottingham Forest with John Perkins in 1989 (when Brian Clough first recognised JP's unique coaching talents) and remained a very close friend.

JP died in October 2016, aged 69, following a short illness and at the time was senior academy coach at (then) Premiership Stoke City FC.

Wolves sporting director Kevin Thelwell explains: "John was a huge part of the development plan we had here at Wolves."



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It's no half measures for DK runners

IT was a tale of the trails at the weekend for runners from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club with opportunities to race over the half marathon distance of 13.1 miles over two tough courses and take in some stunning scenery. Despite that only a handful took the opportunity to pull on the blue hoops possibly put off by the sweltering hot weather and the difficulties of the two courses.

The weekend kicked off with the Eastridge Trail Half Marathon. Set in the Shropshire countryside the course covered an undulating route over trails and tracks around Eastridge woods and up to the Stiperstones Ridge. With 2,324 feet of ascent this is certainly one that could leave runners on their hands and knees at some point during the race.

Steve Holdcroft was the only representative from DK on the day coming home in an impressive 91.15, some way behind the winner Jez Brown of Buckley RC, who claimed victory in 87.42 but a similar distance of the third place finisher, Stuart Smith of Shropshire Shufflers in 94.47.

Twenty four hours later runners were presented with a similar option in the Wyre Forest Half Marathon, again a tough, undulating race over fire tracks and trails through the forest culminating with a nightmare of an uphill finish. Helen Tromans was first back for the hoops taking 27th place overall, sixth lady and claiming first in her age group in 1.44.46 and Carol Fisher completed the trio of weekend racers coming home in 88th place in 2.07.10.

Family fun in the sun at tennis club for Jubilee Trophy

AS Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club opened its doors to the top players, Wollaston Tennis Club members competed for their annual Jubilee Trophy.

With temperatures warmer than Majorca, nine couples competed in a mixed handicap tournament to try to get their name on the club's coveted silver salver.

This year's tournament saw several husbands and wives entering as well as club treasurer Mike White and his daughter Emily. This all added to the occasion together with the flags flying as everyone supported England in the World Cup too!

Matches took place over a three hour period in sweltering temperatures and were competitive, fun and played in great spirit.

The final was between club chairman Alan Hughes and first time finalist Claire Ashman against Chris Brown and Sarah Needs. In a tense match Chris and Sarah came out on top meaning that the trophy was won by two members who weren't actually born when the first event took place. Organiser John Cutler said "This annual tournament has run since 1977 and is always well supported."

Golfer embarks on PGA EuroPro Tour



Golfer Jack South

GOLFER Jack South is being sponsored by Oldbury-based recruitment agency, Osprey Engineering Solutions, as he undertakes the PGA EuroPro Tour across the UK.

The company based at Trigate Business Centre in Oldbury, will sponsor South, of Quinton, for the remainder of the Tour, including an upcoming event at Longhirst Hall Golf Club in Northumberland.

Matthew Reilly, managing director of Osprey explains: "I have personally known Jack for a number of years, and have been proud to watch him advance in his golfing career."

"Since advertising our partnership, I have already received enquiries and new business from people who have been interested in the golf connection."

"I'm really looking forward to seeing how this partnership develops and

cheering Jack on for the remainder of the tour. Jack as well as playing several events in the PGA EuroPro Tour, South also plans to play in the Midlands-based Jamega Pro Golf Tour and qualifying stages for the European Tour. With the EuroPro Tour shown on television, Osprey logo will be seen by a potential audience of one million. Jack is also sponsored by Taymar Homes, based in Netherton.

Captain ready for changes after defeat

HALESOWEN made the long trek to Brockhampton but came back empty handed as they were bowled out for just 182 chasing 276.

Half-centuries from Ian Bullock (55) and Joe Crichard (52) and 42 from Tom Cummins took the Herefordshire side to 276 for nine in 55 overs, despite an impressive spell from Charlie Hartley (4 for 52). After losing three early wickets, skipper Alexei Kervezee (73) and Kester Moseley (52) threatened a recovery but Hales lost their last six wickets for eight runs after they had reached 173 for four.

Adam Hewlett took the last three wickets at a personal cost of 51. More vitally Halesowen lost the services of Hassan Quami with a finger fracture which will require four weeks out for recovery.

Afterwards Kervezee said: "We have a big game next week against Tamworth and we have to sit down and look at how we are set up for that. We need to click in key stages of games and that isn't quite happening at the moment and will cost us even more if we don't address it."

"We have some players in form in the second eleven who we may need to look at whilst one or two in the first team could do with a breather. This league is so tight. Two wins and you are in the top four and two defeats and you're staring at the relegation zone."

A Harry Kitchen hat-trick put Astwood Bank out of the running as the spinner knocked the stuffing out of the middle order left 85 all out chasing Halesowen second XI's total of 165 all out.

Running club look for new recruits

A BLACK COUNTRY running club which boasts more than 100 members is on the lookout for new people to join.

Stourbridge Running Club was founded more than 30 years ago and its members take part in events from long distance running to triathlons and ultra-marathons. Bob Hopkins, secretary, said: "We are always on the lookout for new members, particularly younger people. We have members from their teens up to pensioners."

The runners meet on Monday, Wednesday based at Stourbridge Cricket Club in Amblecote. See www.srclub.co.uk website.

MATT Sen claimed the British Cruiserweight title in only his fourth professional fight on Saturday evening.

The Oldbury-based 30-year-old former bodybuilder, who made his professional just debut 12 months ago, came back from the brink to defeat Wolverhampton's Josh Burke in dramatic style in the top-of-the-bill bout at The Venue, Dudley, at BCB Promotions' 'Usual Suspects' show.



Champion Matt Sen

After a cagey opener, Burke found his rhythm. Working off a strong jab, it seemed the 32-year-old couldn't miss with his right hand catching Sen with a number of well-timed shots. He continued to box with confidence in the third and there appeared to only be one winner.

However, that all changed in a split second. Midway through the fourth, Burke stalked Sen with his guard lowered. Sen hit back with peach of a right to the chops which dazed Burke and, after an onslaught of clubbing right hands, referee Kevin Parker waved off the contest.

Unbeaten

Sen had just enough energy to raise his hands in victory as he had dug deep to claim the win, the belt, and maintain his unbeaten start to life as a professional boxer.

Kirstie Bavington bounced back from a draw on her debut to claim a close 39-38 victory over Irish debutant, Elaine Greenan. Fellow Richie Ghent trained fighters Josh Miller, Connor Lee Jones and Danny Ball all claimed points victories over Lewis Van Poetsch, Kristian Laight and Danny Little respectively. Daryl Pearce made a winning start in the paid ranks as he overcame Plymouth's Mohamed Mahmoud 39-37.

Reaching cup finals is a stroll



Dudley-based Hartshill Strollers Over 65s team beat Birmingham 3-1 to reach the national final

HARTSHILL Strollers Club have won through to the regional finals of a major walking football trophy - twice.

The Dudley club's Over 65s team beat Birmingham WFC 3-1 in the Walking Football Association National Cup 2018 - just nine days after their Over 60s won 1-0, also against Birmingham. Both regional finals will be held in August. Their opponents have yet to be

decided. The winners will go through to the Grand Finals in September.

The WFA National Cup is walking football's most prestigious tournament. Hartshill's Over 60s won the trophy in 2016.

This year they overcame Birmingham with a goal by midfielder Steve Nicholls. The super-veterans won with two goals from striker Richard Delahaye and one from Graham Crew.

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